FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Supplement

Near East & South Asia

IRAN:
16-26 Feb Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-92-057-S
Tuesday
24 March 1992

Near East & South Asia

SUPPLEMENT

IRAN

16-26 Feb Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-92-057-S 24 March 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

RESALAT Reports on Feb Majles Sessions 1
* 16 Feb *[17 Feb]* 1
* 23 Feb *[24 Feb]* 6
* 25 Feb *[26 Feb]* 12
* 26 Feb *[27 Feb]* 16

Related Material

* Role of Council of Guardians in Majles Elections 18
  * Views Expressed by Khamene'i *[RESALAT 23 Feb]* 18
  * Council Members Speak *[RESALAT 23 Feb]* 21
  * Candidates' Competence Evaluated *[RESALAT 20 Feb]* 25
* Editorial on Competency of Majles Candidates *[RESALAT 26 Feb]* 26

RESALAT Reports on Feb Majles Sessions

* 16 Feb

92AS0066A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Feb 92 pp 5, 11

[Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles]

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles met in open session yesterday morning after a 16-day recess, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemian.

At this session, articles were approved from the Direct Taxation Reform Bill and the priority status for several proposals and bills was also approved.

Mohammad Hoseyn Pudineh, Zabol Deputy

Candidates and their supporters must confine themselves to mention of positive characteristics.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad Hoseyn Pudineh, Zabol deputy.

He thanked the people for their unified participation in the 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstration march. He said: In view of the approaching elections and the propaganda activities, it is necessary to look at a few matters.

Just as has been seen in the public statements and in repeated emphasis by the exalted leader, the registered candidates and their supporters must confine themselves to mention of the positive characteristics of their candidates, and they must refrain vigorously from creating an unsound atmosphere, spreading lies, leveling accusations and insults, and slandering others. The public must realize that those who say things like this are not competent to assume the responsibility of public service, and the hope is that the elections for the Fourth Majles, which will be the first elections since the passing of His Holiness the Imam, will be held with as much integrity as possible. It is necessary that the officials in charge of holding the elections, whether in an executive or a supervisory capacity, must invest carefully in proper and essential planning for the best possible public turnout in the elections, and they must regard themselves as the preservers of the Constitution and of the true freedom of the martyr-nurturing and Muslim people of Iran, and since the world is watching the elections for the Fourth Majles, an extensive public turnout will bring despair to the enemies of the revolution and will bring joy to the friends of the revolution inside and outside the country.

Pudineh added: The respected Majles is to be praised for working hard and earnestly to implement the Uniform Payments System Law. It is hoped that in view of existing high prices and inflation, the implementation of the Uniform Payments System Law and the added income for staff employees, and especially the dear teachers, most of whom are government staff employees and are among society's hardest working and lowest paid people, will bring about relative improvements, and since the respected Majles has always sought to solve the problems of the nation's educators by approving $30 million in foreign exchange to procure construction materials for ministry of education people and has approved housing loans to be repaid at a 4-percent return, it is expected that the ministries of Economic and Finance, Housing and Urban Development, and Education and Training will not be negligent about implementing this law forcefully, as they have been in the last two years.

In the same regard he talked about the existing problems in his electoral district such as the shortage of dormitories for students, health-care facilities, welfare provisions, educational assistance, factories, laboratories, and other things, and he asked that the teachers of Sistan va Baluchestan Province be paid fairly.

The Zabol deputy thanked the president of the republic, the Council of Ministers, and the Majles for approving and providing credit for drainage projects in Sistan Province, the comprehensive potable water and health-care project for the villages of Sistan, and other facilities created for this province. He regarded the completion of these tasks and services as an indication of the concern of the government and the Majles for deprived areas, and especially for the province of Sistan va Baluchestan. He added: To wipe out poverty and deprivation among the oppressed people and in the Sistan area, it is most necessary for the government itself to take the lead in the industrial and production sectors and employ the nation's committed and specialist manpower, and it must pay no attention to this wrong slogan that some people are saying, for it has no economic justification.

Such changes to alter the situation of the people are possible only through the creation of heavy and large industries, and unfortunately, in the framework of the nation's Five-Year Plan, industries of this kind have been created in the prosperous regions, and the government's new policies in the production sector and the agreements in principle that have been granted have in and of themselves brought these regions up against the same problems they were facing before and continue to face, because there is no ability for the people to do planning in these areas, and it is necessary for the government to remove these obstacles from the path of the industry and production sector in Sistan.

1. First, the government must not expect private-sector investment in the area because the hope of living and surviving in Sistan is very small for the people, this hope must be created by the government.

2. The obstacles and problems such as water, electricity, and telephone expenses and starting up projects must be removed.

3. Precise and comprehensive identification must be made of the province's underground resources and equivalents.

4. Some large projects must be purely regional and within the province.

5. Procurement of special foreign exchange and rial credits must be provided on a priority basis and with a simpler mechanism.

6. The industrial ministries must study the foreign consumer markets in the Persian Gulf nations and Pakistan, and with study they must create suitable industries in the shortest time possible and with priority.

Mohammad Sa'id Ansari, Abadan Deputy

The destruction resulting from the imposed war will not be converted to prosperity without God-pleasing and national determination.

Mohammad Sa'id Ansari, Abadan deputy, was the second pre-agenda speaker.

He offered congratulations on the joyous birth anniversary of the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent), and said: We saw the blessed Ten Days of Dawn, which shows the sacrifices of this Muslim nation. The superpowers and the world devourers must realize that the Muslim nation of Iran continues to defend and support its Islamic revolution more and better than before. The criminals and hypocrites and others like these prostitutes and sellers of the nation must realize that as long as the world is the world and as long as the nation of Iran lives, and as long as our late Imam's ideas and path exist, and as long as we have an exalted and wise leader like His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, God willing the Islamic revolution will remain firm and steadfast, and the defense by the Muslim nation of Iran will become greater and better day by day.

He added: In light of the gradual return of the respected citizens of Abadan and the dear rural people in view of the many problems that these dear ones have, it is appropriate for the officials and the toiling government to think more about reconstruction and the return of these dear ones, just as it has shown concern for these matters in the past.

The sum allocated to repair damaged urban and rural homes, in view of the high cost of construction materials, is insignificant and trivial. My request of the respected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr. Mirzadeh is that they direct more of their perpetual kindness to the condition of the people in the future, and speed in this matter will solve the problems of the fellow citizens of Abadan. As a representative of the martyr-nurturing people of the Municipality of Abadan, I declare that work has been done in the Municipality of Abadan, but due to the extensive destruction and the government's many problems and few resources, unfortunately it does not befit the scale of the task, but if we merely consider the negative aspects of what has been done and ignore what has been completed, the executive problems and obstacles to reconstruction will increase.

In the same regard, the Abadan deputy said: In view of the volume of the destruction, the vast amount of work to do, and the many needs, in my humble opinion, the most effective method of rendering sincere service to the zealous and heroic people of Abadan is for us all to show unity and solidarity behind the executive and reconstruction officials so that everyone can take steps to meet the needs of the municipality and the noble people of Abadan. Of course, in view of the extent of the savage attacks against heroic Abadan by the Ba'th regime, and over an eight year period, with artillery, bombs, missiles, and bullets, the work that has been completed since the beginning of Resolution 598 is undeniable, and we are certain, in view of the special, compassionate, and fatherly concern of the exalted leader, the respected president of the republic, Mr. Mirzadeh, and the respected governor-general of Khuzestan for the noble people of Abadan in the matter of their reconstruction, they will welcome any project or basic and desirable program which will cause the most advancement possible in this municipality, and, as always, I am fully prepared to follow up on the problems and useful proposals to make dear Abadan prosperous.

Here I insistently demand that the exalted leader, this divine gift that God has granted to this Muslim nation, order that credit for this year's reconstruction be allocated outside the budget and given to the respected reconstruction officials, in order better, more, and more quickly to complete the task of reconstruction and put an end to refugees and vagrancy of our fellow citizens and all the refugees of the imposed war throughout the country and to make our cities prosperous in any way possible, and so that special speed will be given to reconstruction and return of refugees, and I am certain, in view of the favor shown by the respected president of the republic and the Majles, that this will not be enough to complete the reconstruction and repair all the damage.

Continuing, he said: We grateful people of Abadan hold in great esteem the service of every individual who serves us, and we people of Abadan and all the imposed war refugees, just as we welcomed those dear combatants who sacrificed in the imposed war, and will thank and appreciate those dear ones as long as we live, also expect them to help us with the same yearning, enthusiasm, and sacrifice in the work of reconstruction, because just as we could not make progress by ourselves in the imposed war, we also need help and assistance in the reconstruction, and we expect the noble people of Iran, the respected Friday imams, the respected ministers, and all the esteemed officials and compatriots to help us and assist us with the reconstruction, just as they helped us during the imposed war to purge the soil of our Islamic land of the contamination of the enemies of Islam and walked sincerely on the path of pleasing the Creator, and just as our late Imam (peace be upon him) said: "You must regard reconstruction as something like the war", because all this destruction and ruin will not be converted to prosperity without God-pleasing, national, and patriotic determination.

He added: It is appropriate for me to praise and thank the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran for its sacrifice and support and for its involvement in public affairs and in the victory celebration that was held for the blessed Ten Days of Dawn, but an interesting thing is the unprecedented turnout by the noble people of the municipality of Abadan, despite the problems and difficulties with holding these ceremonies, and their participation in the 22 Bahman [11 February] march, and the presence and support of the good people of this municipality for the Islamic revolution, the exalted leader, and all the officials and servants of the government. The respected people of Abadan, with their active involvement in the blessed Ten Days of Dawn ceremonies and the 22 Bahman march, delivered a strong punch in the face to the superpowers and foreigners, and it was a strong punch in the face of the propaganda and foreign radio services seeking to distort reality. As a representative of the noble people, I declare to the exalted leader, the respected president of the republic, the respected speaker of the Majles, all the government employees, and the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran that it is true there are many problems, malfunctions, difficulties, and shortages, but this will not be a reason for the noble people of Abadan and all the refugees of the imposed war to back off a particle from their defense, support, and obedience to the exalted leader and the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult, and likewise, at a gesture they will turn out to defend Islam and its sacred shrines, the exalted leader, and the nation's leaders.

Elsewhere in his talk, the Abadan deputy said: Our people are noble, alert, and aware and have declared their involvement in all the affairs of the Islamic revolution. Therefore, while emphasizing unified participation in the elections to the Fourth Majles, I ask some officials to be completely neutral in the elections, to let the people to vote freely for whomever they want, not to create a public stir, and not to spread rumors. The people know their deputies better than anyone, and I remind some of the deputies who have a direct relationship with the assets in the public treasury, the respected minister of labor and social affairs, as well as the respected executive assistant to the president of the republic who will become responsible for the Emigrants Foundation at the beginning of 1371 [21 March 1992], that unfortunately at the present time the Emigrants Foundation has entered directly into election propaganda in most provinces and municipalities in favor of one of the foundation's officials, and they are using all the public treasury funds for propaganda. The public's wages which should have been paid months ago are now being spent for propaganda. Cash is being used to buy votes. The distribution of household supplies and construction materials is being used these days to buy votes. You are responsible before the court of God and this nation of Muslims. If some of you officials are not worthy of responsibility in the foundations, do not bring into question the organization of an Islamic system. I went in person several times to see Mr. Kamali and reminded him, but they are committing more abuses than you think under your group in the Emigrants Foundation. With all of the concern that I have had and have for you, I did not want to bring this matter up.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Mohammad Sa'id Ansari's remarks were left half finished because his time ran out.

Sadeq Khalkhali, Qom Deputy

These talks have served no purpose.

The final pre-agenda speaker was Sadeq Khalkhali, Qom deputy.

He said: Enthusiastic demonstrations by millions of people throughout Iran on the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, with all the high prices and malfunctions that exist, showed that the people do not have the slightest hesitation about continuing on the path of the Imam, and this is great documentation and proof for the nation's invaders and officials, letting them know that, just as the Imam said in his will, the people know the value of this revolution, and they know what a precious and valuable jewel they have obtained.

The people obtained this Islamic revolution after long years, and the officials from top to bottom are all indebted to this nation, and this nation is the creditor for these officials. Let us gather together all classes, with all the classes we have, the tendencies, the factions, the Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez the Combatant Clergy (breakaway group) [Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez], the Combatant Clerics (original group) [Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez], the bazaar merchants, the shop keepers, the tradesmen, the farmers, and the workers to preserve this unity in the time of the exalted leader and the respected president of the republic, and let us foil the plans to sow discord which are being made in the land of Iran by foreigners and foreigner-worshippers, and we will be able to assume this heavy responsibility.

He added: We have made a revolution whose ripples threaten the superpowers, especially the United States of America. The nations that until yesterday lived under the heels of the communists today took part in the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] presided over by our president of the republic, and this is the greatest triumph for the Iranian nation. The voice of you people resounding all over the world has awakened Muslims and oppressed people. You will notice that in Algeria a storm is arising, the people of Algeria want Islam, but America does not want this Islam.

We are face-to-face with world-devouring America and the Great Satan. Americanized Islam is nothing more than military domination, social domination, cultural domination, and the domination of no values. This American new world order is just that. The American new world order is a rotten tool. Since the beginning of World War II, it has sought throughout Iran to implement the Marshall Plan and Article Two and the same thing is happening now. The fact that the people of the

world are silent before America's arms, that they are suppressed, say nothing, that they have no way before them other than shame and humiliation, is what America wants, but we have been taught by the Imam of the nation, our leader has been taught by the Imam of the nation. The Imam said: I raised this leader myself. The spirit of the Imam is behind Mr. Khamene'i. We revere his positions, it is our duty. We will stand behind him until our last breath. Let the respected deputies direct any complaints they have against America. The humiliation, the degradation, the weakness, and the shame come from America. Americanized Islam is in reality a bloody sword in the hands of pretenders to Islam in the backs of oppressed people throughout the world. The Islam of Mohammad is life-giving balm and soothing ointment for the long pains throughout history in the backs of the oppressed.

Elsewhere in his talk, Khalkhali said: We must be alert, we must be awake. America's actions in taking positions on the Algerian elections are clear to everyone. England and France have the same meaning, they are adopting the same position. They have done something to make the Algerians who were symbols of freedom, the Ait Ahmeds, the Ben Bellas, let's see, the Jamil Bupashas, now have heirs such as Bendjedid, Muhammed Abu Sayyad, let's see, Ghozali, and many others are lined up in ranks led by Shim'on Perez, Bush, Yitzhak Shamir, and others. That is, the actions that have been taken in free Algeria by the Israeli-trained military show this, just as on the streets of Palestine, on Khalil and Naseriyeh streets they are killing young people and destroying homes. The same thing exactly is being repeated in Algeria, and with the same model of weaponry, it makes no difference to them.

He added: On the vain pretext of the crash or destruction of some Pan American aircraft over the village of Lockerbie in Scotland, they come wanting to say that Libya's opinion, Mr. Qadhdhafi, Mr. so-and-so, the free people of Libya do not have the right to breathe, and you have to do what America says, but the people of Libya have shown that they are the children of Umar Mukhtar.

Khalkhali emphasized: To preserve unity, you must be in harmony in some way to stand up against all these crimes. Our respected and great brother Ayatollah Khaz'ali, a respected member of the Council of Guardians, and member of the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, who has memorized the Koran and Nahj ul-Balagheh, said some things to the effect that he will "DDT" whoever does not agree with his tastes.

First of all, this is insulting. They apply "DDT" to insects. Are deputies who have served in the Majles insects? Are they beetles, I don't know, centipedes, or I don't know, things like this?

Very well, these are also a group of people whose tastes are like this. Otherwise, what can be done? I would like to ask him to ask the World Health Organization why they placed an absolute legal prohibition on the use of DDT. Why? Because it causes insects to proliferate. It produces a reaction, and he should not say these things. Of course, I don't know about geology, biology, and these things, but I know that this was not correct. What is in its place is that he has gotten angry, his logic permitted it, whatever happened, in the end he said some things. Another person who was thrown out of Sabzevar came to Karaj, again he attacked, there at "heaven and hell". What is it to you sir? Let the people have their elections, let them do whatever they want to do. This spreading poison against this one and that one and this one against that one, they are creating it and I say that they are preparing this and feeding it to the people. The people are aware and paying attention, and they know who they must vote for, and no one can do the slightest thing to undermine a turnout of millions in the elections. I say that these talks have served no purpose, and we hope, God willing, that the great nation of Iran will participate with pride in the elections for the Fourth Majles following the leader and the president of the republic, and once again that they will put a thorn in the eyes of the Americans.

Mr. Hashemian's Comments

After the pre-agenda speeches, Mr. Hashemian gave a talk in which he praised the heroic and loyal people of Islamic Iran for their great march on "God's Day 22 Bahmah [11 February]", and then he said:

The heroic nation of Iran has proven its loyalty to the late Imam's intentions, and it is walking the path of that celestial and divine person. The heroic nation, with this great and passionate march, has proven that it is truly loyal to His Holiness the late Imam, that it supports the exalted leader, and the heroic nation has also proven its support for the nation's management, and it has supported the government's programs, the judiciary, and all the officials.

He also discussed the show of unity on "God's Day 22 Bahmah [11 February]", and said: With its participation in the passionate march of 22 Bahman, the heroic nation of Iran has made a great show for the unity of all forces and the unity of all ideas, and the inspiration was that each and every one of us must enter into the path of unity and solidary to advance the Islamic revolution, and various matters of taste must not cause separation.

With the cries of "death to America" and "death to Israel", the nation of Iran has proven that it will never compromise with the enemy, and it still expresses its roaring anger against the enemies of Islam.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the Direct Taxation Reform Bill, some articles of which were approved.

The following text is Note 4 f Supplementary Article 32:

Payments arising from rental contracts, in the event that the banks take possession of the land and structures on the property, will be calculated based on the trade value at the time of the death of the deceased.

The following text is Note 9 of Supplementary Article 53:

A: Of the ministries, institutions, government companies and organizations whose budgets are entirely or partially procured by the government, the revolutionary organizations, the municipal offices, and the companies and institutions affiliated with them, as well as other legal entities, must deduct the taxes given in this section from the rentals they pay, pay them within ten days to the local office of economic affairs and assets, and submit the receipt to the lessor.

B: Residential units belonging to government companies which are turned over under contract prior to their definitive tranfer in accordance with registered documents and deeds, as long as they are in the purchaser's possession, will not be regarded as rental properties during this period and with regard to taxes the purchaser will be treated as the owner.

Article 59 is amended as follows and five notes are appended to it:

The definitive conveyance and transfer of properties is on the basis of the trade value and likewise the transfer of the site assignment commission is based on the value of the site assignment commission on the date of the transfer by the owners themselves or the holder of the rights, and will be subject to taxes either separately or together, as follows:

Up to 20,000,000 at the rate of four percent.

Up to 60,000,000, the rate for the excess over 20,000,000 is eight percent.

The rate for the amount in excess of 60,000,000 is 12 percent.

Note 1: The value of the site assignment commission, which depends on the way the property is used and the location with regard to its commercial disposition and other factors influencing its value, will be determined in accordance with a set of guidelines to be set and announced within the first three months of the year by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

The determined value will be valid and obligatory until a new value for the site assignment commission is set. From the date this law goes into effect until the setting and announcement of the guidelines mentioned in this note, the funds received by the owner or holder of the rights paid for transferring the site assignment commission will be subject to taxation as follows:

Note 2: In the event that the transaction has no assigned trade value or site assignment commission value, the trade value or value of the site assignment commission for the nearest comparable site will be the basis for calculating the taxes.

Note 3: In the event that the taxpayers mentioned in this article do several transactions in the same year, they will be subject to taxation according to the aggregate of the transactions made at the rates given in this article. These kinds of taxpayers must prepare a tax disclosure statement on all their transactions during the year, in accordance with the model to be prepared and made available to them by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, and they must submit it by the end of the month of Ordibehesht [21 May] the following year to the precinct tax office for their place of residence or habitation, as required, and they must pay the difference due on the taxes for the total amount of their transactions.

Note 4: The definitive transfer and assignment of properties to the banks in connection with financial instruments given by the banks through civil partnerships will not be subject to taxes on the transfer and assignment of property.

Note 5: The site assignment commission given in this law consists of the trade or professional commission, the commission for possessing or occupying the site, or the payments arising from the site's commercial position.

This language is added to Article 70: Properties which are registered or have been registered in accordance with the appropriate laws as national monuments, in the event that they are transferred to the National Cultural Heritage Organization, will be exempt from all relevant transfer and definitive assignment taxes, and in other cases where the ownership remains in the hands of individuals, the properties are exempt from 50 percent of the taxes on revenues given in the section on property revenue taxes.

In Article 81 after the term "honey bee" the phrase "poultry farming, fishing and seining, silkworm farming, revitalization of forests and pastures, orchards of all types of trees and date palms" is added and the phrase "until the end of the year 1372 [20 March 1994]" is deleted.

It is worth mentioning that Article 81 said: Revenues derived from all agricultural, animal husbandry, fish farming and beekeeping, until the end of the year 1372, are exempt from the payment of taxes.

Among the items amended was the amount of exemption from taxes on wages in government and private organizations, which was approved in the following form:

Up to 1.8 million rials in annual revenues subject to wage taxes from one or several sources is exempt from the payment of taxes.

Note—The amount of exemption given in this article with regard to workers whose wages are paid by government ministeries, institutions and companies, municipalities, or out of government credits is increased to 2.4 million rials.

The following text is added to Article 91 as Paragraph 15:

Revenues subject to wage taxes for members of the academic faculty (in the Ministry of Education and Training), all the universities and institutions of higher learning are subject to a ten percent taxation rate, and no other taxes will be levied on this revenue.

The text of Article 92 is amended as follows:

Fifty percent of the taxes on the wages of workers in government ministries and institutions who are employed in villages and deprived areas (according to the Plan and Budget Organization's list) are forgiven.

Article 101 and its note are amended as follows: Up to 1.5 million rials of the annual revenues from one or several sources subject to the taxes in this section are exempt from the payment of taxes and any excess will be subject to taxation according to the rates given in Article 131 of this law.

In civil partnerships, whether voluntary or obligatory, the partners may use a maximum of two exemptions and the amount of exemption will be divided equally among them, and the remaining share of each partner will be taxes separately. Partners who have a marriage relationship will be treated as one partner with regard to the use of exemptions and the exemption will be given to the husband. In the event one of the partners dies, his heirs, as legal acting recipients, will receive the deceased's exemptions in the partnership as described above, and this exemption will be divided equally among them and will be deducted from the incomes of each of their shares.

Consideration of the other articles in this bill was deferred to the next session.

The second item on the agenda was the inquiry bill concerning amended Article 56 of the Majles Election Law, which was presented to the Majles as a double-priority motion.

The topic of inquiry: In view of the fact that the propaganda activities given in amended Article 56 of the Majles Election Law is also contingent upon .... [as published] in the event that the candidate engages in campaign propaganda before the designated time, will he be subject to the penalties given for violators or not?

The double-priority status for this bill was put to a vote and approved.

The third item on the agenda was the request for investigation and interpellation of Dr. Sharzad, Esfahan deputy, with regard to the quality of aid rendered, the admittance and treatment of the late Dr. Seyyed Abol-Fazl Gharazi, and this request was put to a vote and approved.

(This request had been approved previously by the Majles Health Care Commission)

The next item on the agenda was the bill to amend the Uniform Payments System Law for Government Employees enacted on 6/13/1370 [4 September 1991], which was presented as a double-priority motion. Its double-priority status was not approved and was rejected. Then single-priority status was put to a vote for it and rejected.

It is worth mentioning that this bill makes the armed forces eligible for the Uniform Payments System Law for Government Employees. This bill will be considered in the Majles according to the usual procedure. The fifth item on the agenda was the bill to amend part of the National Budget Bill for 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], which was presented to the Majles as a double-priority motion, and its double-priority status was approved.

It is worth mentioning that this bill has to do with the allocation of two billion tomans credit to the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education in excess of the amount provided in the National Budget Bill for 1370.

The final item on the agenda was the bill on how to establish schools and colleges in the municipalities, which was presented as a single-priority motion, and its single-priority status was approved by the deputies.

* 23 Feb

924S0068A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Feb 92 pp 5, 4

[Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles]

[Text]

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this session, the request for an priority two of the bill on determining the New Year bonuses and awards to workers was ratified.

Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, the Deputy of Izeh

The extensive presence of the people in the march on 22 Bahman [11 February] showed that the efforts of the enemies to create a breach between the people and the revolution have been wasted.

Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, from Izeh, was the first pre-agenda speaker.

Referring to the magnificent march on 22 Bahman, he said: With this action, after the passage of 13 years since

the revolution and tolerating the hardship and problems that the enemies have created for them abroad and in the country in order to perhaps create a breach between the people and the revolution and leader, our people proved not only that they have paid no attention to their sinister and disuniting ruse, but that they have stood every day more steadfast than the day before, and by following the leader of the revolution, they continue powerfully on their original path, gaining great victories and inflicting shameful defeat on the enemy. They have created such fear in the hearts of the enemies, particularly the United States and Israel, and the threat has become so serious for them, that they have engaged most rapidly in other new, horrible and barbaric crimes.

In another part of his speech, he made a reminder to the minister of roads and transports about building the Haftgel-Baghmalek-Izeh road, and, thanking the director general of the water and electricity agency of Khuzestan for his actions in regards to drinking water for Izeh, he expressed hope that the drinking water problems of that city would be resolved as soon as possible.

Musavi continued: Izeh is a tribal region, and the taxes and expenditures imposed by the city halls are intolerable. The people are very worried about this situation and are seriously unable to pay them. Something must be done about this matter.

He also requested that the officials pay more attention to the problems of the farmers in his constituency and said: The natural resources agency of Khuzestan Province has taken possession of the farmers' lands in the region, which they have had at their disposal for years. My hope is that they will make the farmers happy by reversing this action.

In conclusion, he referred to the perturbing health and treatment situation in his constituency and the shortage of physicians, and also criticized the selection process.

Hoseynia'-Madani, the Deputy of Lamrad

All the revolutionary uprisings and movements in the world are somehow rooted in the great revolution of the Iranian people.

Seyyed Razi Hoseynia'-Madani, from Lamrad, was the second pre-agenda speaker.

He said: All the revolutionary uprisings and movements in the world are somehow rooted in the great revolution of the Iranian people. Today, the Hizbullah in Lebanon offer bravely and proudly their dearest beloved, as bloodthirsty Israel, this cancerous and infectious tumor of the Middle East, most shamelessly, in violation of all legal and international boundaries of Lebanon, miserably attacks the car carrying Martyr 'Abbas Musavi and reveals its ferocious nature more than ever before.

The deputy of Lamrad said in another part of his speech: When the members of the Rastakhiz Party are placed as heads of departments and appointed as managers, and they persist in being retained, even when evidence is provided, and, instead of apologizing for his great error, not only does the related minister not apologize to the Hezbollah nation, but he continues to appoint one of them as the director general of education of the province of Hormozgan and another as the head of the office of education of the city of Lamrad, they inflict harm and make the Hezbollah and the revolution skeptical. Oh God, as You are my witness, I did not want to raise the issue, but the impudence of those dear friends who went and gave interviews and said that so-and-so has lied forced me to raise the issue and seek help from the prominent people, the honorable president, and the honorable speaker of the Majles.

Honorable minister, you must apologize to the Majles as well as the nation, because you did not deal with the Majles sincerely, and when you had answers to give the Majles, you did not read the first paragraph of the minister's letter at all. And then you went to Paragraph 2 with baseless explanations, such as, They did not do it themselves, or, Their parents took their birth certificates and registered them, the falsity of this issue is clear to everyone. [sentence as published] Your other mistake was to appoint a parliamentary deputy such as Hashem Rahbari, who destroyed all the bridges between you and the Majles and the deputies of the people. I told you in a meeting that he was not a good parliamentary deputy for you. Honorable minister, it is intolerable for the society, with not even a decade having passed since the revolution, to have the Rastakhiz members as administrators in our society and the instructors of our children. For this reason, all the ugly and unpleasant actions in the city of Lamrad are somehow caused by Hayati and his honorable deputy. It is hoped that while investigating the weak administration of the director general of education in the province of Fars, you do not delay the dismissal of Hayati from the education office of Lamrad.

In continuation, he added: I apologize to Professor Fakhroddin Hejazi and Mr. Musavi-Lari, the honorable deputies of the people of Tehran, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Zolqadr, the deputy of the people of Minab, for the impudence of a group of uncultured riffraff in the city of Lamrad shown towards these dear ones during the 10 days of Fajr. Please accept the apology of the people of Lamrad and myself. These people are known for what they are, and it is shameful that the leaders of such shameful actions are close relatives of the Friday imam of Lamrad. Unfortunately, the Friday imam also supports such uncontrolled actions; hence, we witness that the Friday imam of Lamrad during the Friday prayers did not even say a word in condemnation of them. I register my complaint about the honorable administrative office of the Friday imams not having taken any steps so far with regard to at least four open letters sent, which mention the violations concerning improper intolerance on the part of the Friday imam and his creating disunity. I must praise the strong positions of the minister of interior and the honorable minister as well as the follow-up by the governor general of Fars and the governor of Lamrad as well as the office of the Prosecutor

General of the country and the Revolution Court of the city of Lar for issuing the warrant for the arrest of the perpetrators. Since the perpetrators are fugitives at the present, I request that more emphatic instructions be issued for their rapid arrest and the punishment of their actions, because if these individuals are [not] punished, I am afraid that the people will take it into their own hands directly.

Hoseyn Harati, the Deputy of Sabzevar

Efforts to gain popularity and get votes under the pretext of attacking and weakening the organizations and institutions of the regime are among the traps of Satan.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Hoseyn Harati, the deputy of the people of Sabzevar. He said: The filthy, bloodthirsty Zionist enemy, with a treacherous plan prepared with the participation of the criminal United States, hoped to put an end to the resistant, heroic institution of the Hizballah in Lebanon with a blow from within and an attack from outside. But, what a premature and false supposition it was, because the martyrdom of the anti-Zionist, banner-carrying combatant, the sire of martyrs of the Hizballah, the learned martyr Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, at the hands of the cruel Zionists not only failed to create the slightest tremor or weakness in the strong foundations of this divine institution, but it also made them more united and decisive in continuing the path and pursuing the goal of resistance until victory and made their faces more inflamed.

Continuing his speech, Hoseyn Harati referred to the elections for the Fourth Majles and said: We are at the threshold of the sensitive and destiny-making elections for the Fourth Majles. Spiritual and moral pestilence threatens the candidates. I feel that if we do not step on this path with the weapon of relying on God and divine piety, even though we may win, we will be defeated, and while we may gain, on the surface, a seat in the Majles, we will still remain in the prison of our passions. In my opinion, the pestilence and threat are as follows:

1. According to the deep, mystical words of our late Imam, the Majles elections are a divine test, truly a difficult test on a slippery and dangerous path, and not a race for victory. It is an awesome duty and responsibility to accept the burden of responsibility for a unique nation of 60 million. Who will emerge from this test successfully and proudly? Those who during the period of planning, speeches, and campaigning for elections are able to come out from the depths of the hell of passion without one slander, one false word, one insult to a Muslim's honor, one deceptive slogan or empty promise. Such people are the true models of piety and justice, and even if they do not gain access to the Majles seat, they will be victorious and honorable.

2. The deviant thesis that "The end justifies the means" is one of the terrible points of the hell of passion and the deceptive temptations of Satan. It makes its picture appear so pretty that it truly becomes "Arabic" and justifies for itself and what it has in mind, stating: I want to go to the trenches of the Majles to defend the lost rights of the oppressed, raise the downtrodden to their lofty position, solve the problems of unemployment and high prices, and in short rectify the chaotic situation. Hence, my rival, and all rivals who do not follow this line, direction, and faction, must be driven out of the scene by any means, become miserable and defeated, and I must become victorious, because my goal is sacred, and their ideas are not sacred but futile. It is in this manner that the temptations of Satan build a basis for him to do, write, and implement whatever he wishes.

3. Efforts to gain popularity and votes and become so-called indispensable to the nation by attacking and weakening the institutions and organizations of the regime. Another trap by Satan is to speak in harmony with the statements of a bunch of uninformed and indifferent people and to endorse all their baseless ideas and nonsense to attract their attention, even at times speaking contrary to one's own personal beliefs and scientific understanding of the society, to speak as they do and heat their arguments, thereby preferring the contentment of the creature over that of the Creator. God knows what calamities and sins are committed on this course and how the serving government and the hardworking Majles become victims of the lashes of insults and accusations, blaming everything on others and presenting the government and the Majles as thus and the judicial system as so, sometimes creating an atmosphere of hate and skepticism, as if wishing to destroy everything and to build the palace of one's desires on the ruined hopes of others. Alas, this is not a palace but a hut, which is in ruins from the foundation.

4. The infiltration into the election headquarters of infamous and opportunistic individuals who have no fundamental belief in the Islamic Republic. Usually, the infiltration of such individuals can cause problems and calamities in two dimensions. First, they want to cover up their unpleasant face and try to gain social position and reputation. Or, after the candidate has succeeded in the election, they wish to take advantage of his indebtedness and use the reward as a bridge to their irrational and illegitimate wishes. In either case, the influence of such individuals in the election is a pestilence which both causes the people to stay away from the elections and also harms the popular image of the candidate, reducing him to an agent of a particular individual or group.

He then praised and thanked the Hezbollah nation for their great march on the divine day of 22 Bahman and emphasized: The elections for the Fourth Majles are the first elections since the heartrending death of the late Imam. Your vast and expansive participation in these elections is an arrow that both blinds the eyes of the foreign enemies of the revolution and pains the hearts of the domestic enemies. It also turns the last hope of the belligerent and bankrupt minigroups into despair. On the other hand, it is a beautiful and scented flower whose life-giving and spirit-nurturing aroma in the spring of nature and the Islamic revolution makes the angels

praise us, delights the martyrs, and makes the followers of the path of the Imam and his pious successor, the grand leader, more steadfast.

In conclusion, the deputy of Sabzevar defended the former Friday imam of Sabzevar and said:

One of the pre-agenda speakers last week improperly accused the revered brother, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdus, the honorable deputy of the religious guardian and Friday imam of Karaj and the former Friday imam of Sabzevar, of "being driven out of Sabzevar." As it is my religious and moral duty not to deny just witness and to defend the rights of the noble and revered people of my constituency, Sabzevar, I inform the public of the following points:

1. The revolutionary image and the bright combative life history of fighting the cruel monarchical regime and his heated and fiery speeches on sensitive situations and occasions of the revolution are known to everyone.

2. In accordance with his religious duty, he was appointed for seven years by the Imam as the deputy of the Imam and the Friday imam of Sabzevar. His services, initiatives and vast efforts during this period are not unknown to any of the grateful people of Sabzevar. The valuable legacy and the memory of his self-sacrifice and generosity, both prior to the Islamic revolution, in his exciting revolution-creating speeches, and after the victory of the revolution, in his sermons, have been stimulating and constructive in the trenches of the Friday prayers and are unforgettable.

3. When the noble and loyal people of Sabzevar were informed that he intended to resign and depart, in various forms they registered their insistent demands and strong protest, in the form of numerous letters, in meetings in the presence of the grand families of the martyrs, in the revolutionary institutions at their homes, and even in marches. For example, a letter with more than 50,000 signatures was sent to the office of the Central Council of Friday Imams requesting that his resignation not be accepted and that he continue in his position. In truth, we must say that in the course of 14 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution, this has been unmatched, or at least extraordinary. Hence, I hope that some of the brothers will be more careful in their statements and in their speeches form the sacred, constructive, uniting and hope-creating podium of the Majles.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was a continuation of the examination of the "bill amending the direct tax laws, ratified in Esfand 1366 [20 February-20 March 1988] by the Majles," of which certain articles were ratified as follows.

The following statement is added to Article 104:

Facilities granted by banks through service contracts in agriculture-related affairs and completion of a residential unit are not subject to the deduction of 5 percent in taxes paid as partial payment stated in this article, and in such cases, the banks are responsible for sending a copy of the service contract with the agent to the related tax office within 30 days from the signing of the contract.

Article 111 is amended as follows:

The income from the taxable contract work of foreigners in Iran in regards to any operation of construction, technical and repair facilities, transportation, preparing building and facilities projects, mapping, drafting, supervision, and technical accounting shall be 12 percent of the annual accumulation across the board.

Article 131 is amended as follows: [as published]

The following text replaces Article 132:

Article 132. The income of production and mining units for which from the date of the ratification of this amendment identity cards or operating licenses are issued by the Ministries of Industries or Heavy Industries or Mines and Metals or Construction Jihad, as the case may be, shall be exempt from taxes for eight, six, and four years, respectively, from the date of operation, based on Priorities 1, 2, and 3. In regards to the above-mentioned production and mining units, which are created or operated in the oppressed areas, an additional 50 percent of the above-mentioned period will be added to the exemption period stated in this article.

Exceptions cited in this article shall not include revenues of production and mining units located within a radius of 120 km of the center of Tehran and 50 km of the center of Esfahan.

Of the revenues subject to declared taxes from production and mining, engineering design and assembly design activities, for which the above-mentioned ministries have issued or will issue operating licenses, 2 percent shall be exempt from taxes.

Mines that began operating in accordance with the certification of the Ministry of Mines and Metals prior to the ratification of this amendment shall, for the remainder of the above-mentioned periods, be included in the exemptions stated in this article from the date of the ratification of this amendment.

Cultural and artistic centers, including movie-producing establishments and cinemas; theaters; dubbing establishments; and filming, theater, music, calligraphy, painting and sculpture training schools; which have operational licenses or have been established by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, shall be exempt from taxes for a period of five years from the date they begin their activities, and if they are located in oppressed areas, this period shall be extended to eight years.

The next item on the agenda was the bill amending Paragraph "E" of Note 29 of the law of the first economic, social, and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran with an priority two, of which, following the discussions and explanations by the minister of agriculture, an priority one was ratified.

The third item on the agenda was the request of a number of deputies to examine the bill on the payment of New Year bonuses and rewards for workers in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] with an priority two, which was ratified. (The general points and details of this bill will be examined in tomorrow's session.)

The last item on the agenda was the "legislative proposal on the procedures to spend the developmental funds in the oppressed areas of the country," with a request for an priority two.

In this connection, Hoseyn Harati, explaining that in order to complete the incomplete projects of 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and 1370 in the oppressed areas of the country, it is necessary to have the ratified budget for these areas to be calculated outside the accounting law, as was done in 1369 and 1370, asked the deputies to vote in favor of an priority two, so that the implementation bylaws and the needed agreements can be prepared before the start of 1371 [21 March 1992].

The priority two was then put to a vote and ratified.

The Majles will hold an open session tomorrow morning.

Income tax rates, except when in accordance with the regulations of this law there are separate rates, are as follows:

The Ratio of Taxes to Income Is as Follows, With the Exception of the Cases Which, According to the Provisions of This Law Possess a Separate Rate

Up to 100,000 rials	annual taxable income			at 12%
Up to 2,500,000 rials	annual taxable income	for the amount exceeding	1,000,000 rials	18%
Up to 6,000,000 rials	annual taxable income	for the amount exceeding	2,500,000	25%
Up to 9,000,000 rials	annual taxable income	for the amount exceeding	6,000,000 rials	35%
Up to 25,000,000 rials	annual taxable income	for the amount exceeding	9,000,000 rials	45%
Up to 50,000,000 rials	annual taxable income	for the amount exceeding	25,000,000 rials	50%
Up to 100,000,000 rials	annual taxable income	for the amount exceeding	50,000,000 rials	50%
Up to 300,000,000 rials	annual taxable income	for the amount exceeding	100,000,000 rials	52%
	For amounts exceeding	300,000,000 rials	54%	

The above-mentioned rates shall be imposed on income taxes of legal persons whose fiscal year ends from the first of 1370, and in other cases shall be imposed from the beginning of 1371 [21 March 1992].

It is worthy of note that Article 131 previously stated:

Up to 400,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	200,000 rials	at the rate of 14 percent	
Up to 700,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	400,000 rials	at the rate of 16 percent	
Up to 1,100,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	700,000 rials	at the rate of 18 percent	
Up to 1,600,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	1,100,000 rials	at the rate of 20 percent	
Up to 2,200,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	1,600,000 rials	at the rate of 23 percent	
Up to 2,800,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	2,200,000 rials	at the rate of 26 percent	
Up to 3,600,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	2,800,000 rials	at the rate of 29 percent	
Up to 4,400,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	3,600,000 rials	at the rate of 32 percent	
Up to 5,400,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	4,400,000 rials	at the rate of 35 percent	
Up to 6,400,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	5,400,000 rials	at the rate of 38 percent	
Up to 8,000,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	6,400,000 rials	at the rate of 41 percent	
Up to 10,000,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	8,000,000 rials	at the rate of 45 percent	
Up to 12,200,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	10,000,000 rials	at the rate of 49.5 percent	
Up to 15,000,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	12,200,000 rials	at the rate of 54 percent	
Up to 18,000,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	15,000,000 rials	at the rate of 59 percent	
Up to 21,200,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	18,000,000 rials	at the rate of 64 percent	
Up to 25,000,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	21,200,000 rials	at the rate of 69 percent	
Up to 30,000,000 rials	on the amount exceeding	25,000,000 rials	at the rate of 75 percent	

[Table as published]

On the Margins of Majles

The report on the open session of the Majles on Tuesday, 29/11/70 [18 February 1992], was not published due to complications.

In that session, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the deputy of Tehran; Mohammad Reza Bahmani, the deputy of Ramhormoz; and Qazizadeh-Hashemi, the deputy of Sarakhs, spoke as pre-agenda speakers.

Also, the bill on the priority two of the clarification of amending Article 56 of the Majles election law was discussed, and the opinion of the Majles concerning it was declared.

The subject of the clarification: Considering that the campaign activities cited in the amending Article 56 of the Majles election law are limited to eight days, if the candidate engages in campaign activities prior to the determined period, can the punishments stated be implemented in regards to the violator?

The opinion of the Majles in this connection was announced as follows:

Prohibition against campaigning from the date of registration until the names of the verified candidates are announced by the executive committee shall not include the period prior to and after the above-mentioned period, provided it is not under the heading of candidacy.

Protest of Tehran deputy Against the Collection of Funds From the People by City Hall to Presell Housing

In a letter addressed to the minister of interior, 19 deputies of Tehran to the Majles protested the action of Tehran City Hall in collecting funds from the people to presell housing. The text of the letter of the deputies and their names are as follows:

As you know, in an announcement some time ago, Tehran City Hall called on the people of Tehran to deposit their funds in the City Hall and receive money monthly based on an annual interest rate of 24 percent. The above-mentioned announcement was contrary to the monetary and banking law of the country and the interest-free banking operations law.

On the same basis, after the officials made reminders and the Majles issued a reminder, the Ministry of Interior published an announcement stating that the above-mentioned announcement was illegal. Now, once again, City Hall has made its previous announcement in another form. This time, City Hall has announced: "Prepurchase and enjoy sufficient discounts," or that here is an "unusual opportunity for applicants who wish to use their funds for housing."

City Hall this time has promised 25-percent interest in the form of a discount. Besides the fact that this announcement will cause the annual increase in the price of housing by at least 25 percent and will cause the provincial people to migrate to Tehran in order to get a home or will cause the transfer of resources from other sectors to the construction sector and ultimately inflate the price of housing, materials and wages, in accordance with the articles of the monetary and banking laws of the country ratified in 1351 [21 March 1972-20 March 1973] and the interest-free banking operations law ratified in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], it is a violation; and in accordance with Paragraph E of Article 2 of the law of punishments for disrupters of the economic system, it is punishable.

In accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the interest-free banking operations law, the control and guidance of money circulation and funds are duties of the banking system. Hence, public announcements to collect funds from the people to prepurchase a number of houses at an annual interest or discount already determined at 25 percent is a form of banking operations, which will result in the transfer of huge sums of money and disrupt the management and circulation of money and funds, not to mention the fact that it is unclear whether it is within the jurisdiction of City Hall to build houses.

If tens of thousands of people make deposits in City Hall, will City Hall be able to give houses to all of them? How long will it take? And if it is unable to act on its promise, will the reputation of the regime not be harmed? Should we not think about the funds of the people?

Fakhroddin Hejazi, Asgharzadeh Alviri, Mohammad Sa'id Taslimi, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, 'Abbas Sheybani, Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani-Duzduzani, Hadi Ghaffari, Tatira'i, Dastgheyb, Raja'i, Behruzi, Mohtashemi, 'Amid Zanjani, Mozaffarinezhad, Asghari, [text illegible].

Answer of the Tehran City Hall

In the name of the Almighty.

In response to the question posed by 19 distinguished Majles deputies of Tehran concerning the presale of residential units by the Tehran City Hall, the following are worthy of note:

1. Considering the existing regulations, the banking interest in the services sector, the price of housing and other related standards, and based on economic science, the Tehran City Hall announcement will result in a reduction in housing prices and not an increase.

2. If the announcement causes an increase in the price of housing, the high price of housing would not normally be considered an attraction causing migration. Hence, one of the two conclusions must be revised.

3. The plan offered attempts to provide the grounds for the logical employment of the existing resources in construction and establish direct relations with housing applicants and hence become effective in the relative elimination of inflation in the construction sector.

4. If every economic action and reaction, which involves the transfer of money, is to be regarded as a banking operation, naturally the activities of all government and private economic agencies must be considered banking operations. Hence, the actual meaning of granting discounts or presales in various forms, which are among the current activities of the country, must necessarily be noted.

5. Noting that every plan that attempts to achieve such a goal must be supported by the necessary studies, obviously, the applicants must be sure that they would like to own the residential unit in question. In this regard, numerous projects and plans of the City Hall are ready or are being implemented.

6. Referring to the laws of the charters and ratifications related to the City Hall (the engineering and development agency of Tehran, the building of 'Abbasabad, and the agency for the improvement and development of South Tehran, etc.), the contents of the City Hall plan are related to the activities of the Tehran City Hall. In this connection, the text of Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 3 of the agency for the improvement and development of South Tehran and also Article 3-3 of the bylaws of the engineering and development agency are, briefly, as follows:

2. The preparation of programs to provide for needs in the areas of water, sewage, electricity, housing, educational complexes, treatment and health centers, welfare and family planning, child care, large cooperative stores, employment centers, creating roads and repairing asphalt, building sidewalks, and, if necessary, moving people and relocating them—on the whole, any action that is determined to improve the living conditions and welfare of the region.

3. Providing the conditions for the participation of the people and the private sector in the implementation of the objectives of the organization.

Book of City Hall Law (pp. 146, 147)

3-3. The purchase, sale, rental and leasing of machinery, tools and equipment; the possession of land; the receiving of loans and credit in accordance with the current laws and regulations; and entering into investments and partnerships with banks or other investment establishments in concerned transactions, including buying and selling, importing and exporting, which are directly related to the issue of the organization. The Bylaws of the Engineering and Developmental Agency.

Central Office of Public and International Relations of the Tehran City Hall

*** 25 Feb**

92AS0669A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
26 Feb 92, pp 5, 15

[Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles]

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles met in open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

Hoseyn Barzanji, Naqdeh va Oshnoviyeh deputy

The policy of the Islamic system has been based on preventing racism and factionalism.

Hoseyn Barzanji, Naqdeh va Oshnoviyeh deputy, was the first pre-agenda speaker. During his talk he said: It is clear that our Constitution has arisen out of the Koran and Islamic commands, and actually the policy of the Islamic government is based on Islamic justice and unity between all officials, not only in Iran, but throughout the world, and throughout the Islamic revolution to this day, the statements of all the officials in the government, especially the exalted leader, have been based on unity, equality and preventing racism and factionalism.

Continuing, the speaker discussed the fact that Article 3 in the Constitution speaks of creating just resources for everyone and eliminating unacceptable racism. He said: In the matter of hiring, what are the differences among the Iranian Muslims? Since the war, our main problem has been the matter of the unemployment of individuals, especially young boys and girls. The young people in our region are complaining of the pain of unemployment, but unfortunately the hiring officials, without regard for the Constitution and the guidance from government officials, especially in the matters of hiring, administration, teacher training tests and institutions of higher learning, have undertaken to eliminate ethnic people, and instead of them they are hiring nonethnic people, and unfortunately, because of their lack of familiarity with the culture, the customs and the language, they cannot be truly effective, and this action has been the cause of disappointment for the great mass of people, and especially the young people.

He said: In the research I have done, political issues are not a factor in their hiring, and usually they are fired on ethical grounds. It would be appropriate to present in the Majles a proposal on ordinary hiring and the method of making selections as soon as possible, to prevent these injustices.

The speaker discussed the situation in the municipality of Naqdeh. He said: In this city, as the result of a wrong and divisive policy, the city has been divided into two parts, the north and the south. In general, in the northern part the people have all the urban facilities and welfare provisions, and all the offices, revolutionary and technical organizations, the municipal terminal, the gas pumps and other resources have been transferred to this area. In the southern part of the city, however, there are no offices, government resources or welfare facilities to be seen, and actually the division of the city into two ethnic parts in the near and distant future could entail unpleasant political and cultural problems and complications. It is hoped that the respected president of the republic, with the cooperation of the Ministry of the Interior, will prevent this unacceptable discrimination

by sending investigators to the municipality of Naqdeh to observe this problem and to prevent the narrowmindedness and disgusting ethnic prejudice, and that with a wise policy, by justly distributing resources and dividing the offices between both areas, that he will offer the bounty of kindness and the blessings of the Islamic Republic everywhere in the form of more extensive fairness and Islamic justice and through the elimination of problems.

Addressing the minister of oil, he said: Although all the memos and letters from all the deputies in the cities of the province of West Azarbaijan concerning the procurement of fuel have gone unanswered and with no action taken, to prevent life-threatening dangers to the public, for God's sake and to preserve the government, he must take rapid and emergency measures to send fuel to the cities of the province of Azarbaijan, and especially Naqdeh and Oshnoviyeh, both of which are now experiencing below-zero temperatures and severe snow, because fuel on the black market is selling for 10 to 15 tomans per litre, but it is scarce or unavailable with ration coupons. Dear brother, if the people of these areas are not protesting, it is to preserve the government, make sacrifices and show commitment to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Instead of sending fuel to the religiously and politically divided nation of Turkey, have mercy on the oppressed people of West Azarbaijan, and the hope is that with the deregulation of the price of oil and gas, and their unregulated sale in the manner now used for gasoline, with faster fuel delivery, at least once you will put your promise into practice.

Continuing, the Naqdeh va Oshnoviyeh deputy discussed the education and training problems in these regions, and he asked the minister of education and training to solve the current problems of the city of Oshnoviyeh. With regard to the elections, he said: Some people intend to create an unsound and un-Islamic atmosphere and to create an unsuitable and unsound environment in order to strike a blow at those concerned about the elections and our general well- being. I therefore ask the respected minister of the interior and the respected Council of Guardians not to let the health of the elections and the fact that the criterion must be the vote of the people be damaged and ignored. I ask the people in my electoral district to look at the situation with clear insight and also to participate actively in these elections.

'Abdollah Hoseyni, Bandar Langeh Deputy

The second pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed 'Abdollah Hoseyni, Bandar Langeh deputy.

We must all make efforts to bring about harmony and unity between the nation of Iran and the government's officials.

He recalled highlights from the exalted leader's remarks about having the elections to the Fourth Majles be as sound as possible. He said: Recent international developments show the movement of nations towards Islam and the elimination of the signs of atheism and infidelity. The branding of Iraq as an aggressor by the United Nations, the vindication of Iran's rightful position, the decline in atheism and irreligion, the growth of religion, religious practice and belief in God as the source of being, the recent victory by the Muslims of Algeria, and the formation of the Islamic governments in Central Asia, all show the victory promised to the Muslims by God.

Continuing, he said: Today more than 13 years have passed in the blessed life of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we see how beautifully we have passed in good health through the problems they placed in our path, and we are approaching the shores of stability.

He discussed the splendid march of 22 Bahman [11 February]. He said: We must not ignore enemies, which are lying in wait for an opportunity on every side to find an opening through which to strike a blow. Everyone must listen with all their hearts to the call of the Koran, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our great leader, and we must all make efforts to establish harmony between the nation of Iran and the government's officials.

Continuing his remarks, Hoseyni said: Today high prices, inflation, and the bad economic situation are the chief problems of the people, but as the exalted leader said, "The people of Iran are not afraid of shortages, it is discrimination in its various forms that makes the people unhappy." Everyone must try to refrain from permitting discrimination in any shape or form, and make efforts to eliminate it. The government's goals to reach the final victory include budget allocations, the construction of production and industrial centers, building dams and power stations, and using personnel and giving responsibilities to individuals, especially commited and specialist ethnic people in the area.

He added: Every part of this country has special characteristics and attributes and it has committed individuals to accept various responsibilities, and it is incumbent upon the officials in the government to try to make the best and most fruitful use of all manpower and make the utmost effort, and they must give attention to the entire country when allocating industries and factories, rather than each official just looking at his own region when the budget making and planning are done, and rather than the governors general and the managers and chiefs of organizations looking only at their friends and those close to them when assigning responsibility, giving them the responsibilities on the pretext that they know them better.

He emphasized: Today is the time of reconstruction, and the time has come, with careful study of areas and individuals, to take steps to assign the most talented officials and situations to industries and resources, and to assign responsibility only to specialists and committed people, to observe regulations and to do away with the use of connections.

Before the triumph of the Islamic revolution, 57 percent of the nation's industry was in the three provinces of Esfahan, Tehran, and Zanjan, but today this mistaken policy must not be followed.

Elsewhere in his talk, he said: The practice of assessing goods accompanying travelers based on the 600-rial dollar has brought with it many problems for workers and employees in the Persian Gulf nations. The policies of other countries are aimed at giving privileges to manpower employed outside the country. Instead of using foreign exchange obtained through worker resources, we guide these resources into use by smugglers.

In the same regard, he asked officials to exempt the goods accompanying travelers employed in the nations of the Persian Gulf from this assessment, as is done for Kish Island travelers.

Continuing, the Bandar Langeh official thanked the officials of the Ministry of Energyr for procuring the sweet water in his electoral district, and he criticized the high price of water and asked for an adjustment.

In conclusion, he criticized the high taxes on stores in Bandar Langeh, in view of the fact that the duty-free ports at Kish and Qesm islands have a negative effect on their income, and he asked the minister of economic and financial affairs to attend to this matter.

'Abbas'ali Zali, Karaj Deputy

We must create conditions for all the people to take part in the elections by avoiding inappropriate confrontations.

The third pre-agenda speaker was 'Abbas'ali Zali, Karaj deputy.

He discussed this year's splendid Daheh-ye Fajr observances. He said: To acknowledge all this awareness, it is necessary for the officials and servants of this sacred government to try more than in the past to reduce the problems of the nation's patient and combative people.

Continuing, he discussed the martyrdom of the leader of the Hizballah of Lebanon. He regarded this martyrdom as a great moment in the history of the struggles of the people of Lebanon. He added: Naive people enamored of political solutions will remain committed to their mistake, and this idea that one must use Muslims reliant on faith and the power of Islam to liberate Jerusalem will become stronger than in the past.

Continuing, he emphasized the importance of holding the elections, and with reference to the leader's guidance, he said: With correct planning, we must create conditions for all the people who are concerned about the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take part in the elections by avoiding inappropriate confrontations, so the people, with peace of mind, will be able to vote for the candidates they prefer. Just as the great Imam (peace be upon him) also said, the people are free in the elections and have no need of a guardian, and no individual or group has the right to impose an individual or individuals on the people. Definitely, the brave people, who enjoy very good intelligence and political growth, will vote with complete care for deputies who are committed to Islam and loyal to the people, and who will have a sense of responsibility in serving them. They will vote for people who, as our late Imam said, have tasted the bitter taste of poverty, and in word and deed defend the Islam of the barefoot, the Islam of the oppressed, the Islam of the tormented of history, and in a word, who defend the Islam of Muhammad. However, let the leaders of the Muslims, the people, the planners, the groups and various factions be warned against factional and group clashes, and let them be advised to try to introduce and elect sound people who support the Islamic revolution.

As the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution said, all efforts must be directed at preserving and strengthening the position of the revolutionary groups, especially the Council of Guardians and the Majles. The lofty place and position of the respected Council of Guardians, as the most important, the most expressive, the most active and the most effective aggregation for the health of the entire government and the position of its respected members, who are selected by the exalted leader and the Majles, must be taken into consideration, and behavior and talk that do not comport with the eminent position of this group must be avoided.

In conclusion, he discussed the comments made on Sunday by the Sabzevar deputy. He said: I also praise and thank Mr 'Abdus, the respected Friday imam of Karaj, for his efforts.

Brother Harati discussed his (Mr. 'Abdus') record of struggle and activity when he worked in the municipality of Sabzevar, and it is necessary to note that because of the continued illness of the former Friday imam of the municipality of Karaj, who was also a very effective person, at the general request of the respected members of the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [original group] and the aware and pious people of the municipality, he again accepted the responsibility, and praise God he was effective in preserving and strengthening unity in this municipality.

Manuchehr Kelimi Nikruz, Jewish Minority Deputy

The final pre-agenda speaker was Manuchehr Kelimi Nikruz, Jewish minority deputy. Using three minutes of the Karaj deputy's time, during his speech he said: The extensive participation by the people of Iran in this year's 22 Bahman march proved once again the decisive support of the various classes of people for the government and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it showed that despite difficult and crisis conditions and enduring problems, the Iranian nation has never given up its revolutionary principles. Indeed they insist on continuing the path of His Holiness the late Imam (peace be upon him) until the full realization of the goals of the

founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this in itself is valuing and defending reverence for independence, freedom and humane values.

He added: I have regularly expressed the deep regret of myself and other free Jews for the new crimes of the Zionists led by criminal America in martyring the crusading scholar Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, general secretary of the Hizballah of Lebanon and his wife and young child, and I again emphasize that Jewish society has always considered the illicit presence of Zionism to be unprincipled and against the interest of true well-being, and believes its continued life to be dangerous for humanity and future generations. They condemn any kind of terrorist act under any pretext, and they call upon international organizations to make a judgement and a reaction pleasing to God and humanity regarding the clear violation of human rights by those who falsely claim to be supporting human rights.

All true followers of divine religions believe in justice, peace, and brotherhood, and they consider hostility and war to be unacceptable and reprehensible phenomena. As Sa'di said: Human beings are members of one another, created from a single essence.

Doesn't this statement arise out of the essence of the divine scriptures? Is it becoming for a regime to make such a savage attack with cannon-bearing helicopters against a tireless combatant in front of the world? Is it becoming for the United Nations not even to take a step within the limits of its prerogatives to prevent and censure the clear aggression of the Zionist regime against the soil of Lebanon and the the killing and wounding of innocent people? If organizations claiming to defend human rights are sincere about their claims, why don't they defend the struggles of the people of Palestine and the combatants of the intifadah?

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, praise God, with stability, authority, and prosperity, goes further and further ahead moment by moment. That government itself and its Constitution must be a true model for all those who seek the truth, for the rights of minorities have been well protected in it and it is the main foundation for the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation, which exists between the various classes of the nation of Iran.

Continuing, he thanked the nation's executive and judicial officials for their favor to Jewish society. He announced: The Jewish people of Iran regard their freedom and security as being due to the wise guidance of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and the compassionate officials of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and they emphasize their determination, will, and solidarity with the various classes of the nation of Iran to advance the sacred goals of their compatriots.

In conclusion, he said: I wish to remind people of the importance of taking part in the elections, which are truly a prominent indication of the involvement of the common people in determining their own fate, their independence of thought and their right to vote, which is a more complete concept of true democracy.

As in the past, the society of Jews in Iran will be at the ballot boxes with solidarity and determination, and by voting, they will prove to the people of the world their freedom and their high political perception.

Legislation

At yesterday's session, after approval of the bill setting a New Year's bonus and gift to workers (which was reported in the previous edition), the entire motion on how to spend development credits in the nation's deprived areas was put to a vote, and since some of the deputies questioned the result of the voting, a new vote was deferred until the next session. Based on this motion, 100 percent of credits for deprived areas will be spent outside the rules of the Accounting Law and other general government regulations.

Likewise at yesterday's session, the question to the minister of housing and urban develpopment from Mohammad Baqer Zakeri, Quchan deputy, concerning the fate of 20,000 meters of land belonging to a number of Quchan residents, which was formerly taken over by the Urban Lands Organizations, was presented.

Kazeruni, minister of housing and urban development, did not see the confiscation of two hectares of land belonging to the people of Quchan by the Islamic revolutionary committee as a responsibility of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and he thought the answer to this question should be sought from the minister of the interior.

After the remarks by the minister of housing and urban construction, the Quchan deputy announced that he was satisfied with his remarks.

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent states that at yesterday's session arrival was announced of the questions from Al-Hoseyni, Arak deputy, and Shahryari, Dashti, Tangestan, Dir and Kangan deputy, to the minister of petroleum concerning the reason for the increased price of petroleum products, the reason for the shortage of fuel in the country, the Ministry of Petroleum's plans to prevent such a situation in future years, the reason for the failure to employ ethnic manpower in the province of Bushehr at the Vali'asr (may God hasten his joyful advent) Refinery, and the failure to pay the wages of the people of Dir with regard to the confiscation of agricultural lands and orchards and their years [as published].

At this session, a letter from about 140 deputies concerning the recent clashes in the republics of Azarbaijan and Armenia was read, whose contents are as follows:

The new independent republics, which have been formed with the collapse of the atheist communist system and the breakup of the Soviet Union, still have

not tasted freedom and independence and already world imperialism, led by criminal America, as always and everywhere in the world, by creating an atmosphere of confusion and unrest there and muddying the waters, has the idea of turning the situation to its advantage, and it is in this same regard that the filthy demon of imperialism, through instigation and inciting conflict, is the reason for the bloodshed and killing of innocent people in the two newly independent neighbor republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and overall the factors show plots designed by mysterious hands that without any doubt are coming out of America's sleeve.

We deputies of the nation of Iran do not regard war and bloodshed as being in the interest of either side, and we are sure that the real beneficiary of this conflict will be world imperialism, and we sincerely ask both sides to lay down their arms in a complete and immediate cease-fire and not be the cause of shedding the blood of innocent people and to use their manpower and resources for reconstruction and progress in a country newly released from the yoke of imperialism and to repair the damage, and to solve their differences at the negotiating table with reliance on international laws and criteria. In this regard, while fully supporting the steps of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we ask it to resume its mediation efforts until the desired results are reached.

The Letter of a Veteran and the Brother of Two Martyrs Concerning Ha'erizadeh's Comments About How To Deal With Improper Veiling

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—Following the publication of the pre-agenda speech dated 10/4/1370 [25 December 1991], Seyyed Abol-Hasan Ha'erizadeh, Birjend and Nehbandan deputy, the following letter from a veteran of the Islamic revolution and brother of two martyrs reached the newspaper's office, which is printed below.

This letter states: In his pre-agenda speech he severely critiziced the slogans on the walls signed by the Hezbollah and similar groups. In saying such a thing, I don't know what answer this dear deputy will give to the martyrs, and I don't know what he is seeking to accomplish in this Islamic society. Are the slogans "death to improper veiling" and "improper veiling is waiting for the glances of others" illogical? Does he want the dear ones in the Hezbollah to come and write "death to veiling" on the walls to make him happy?

You who strongly claim to follow the Imam's line, and always in your speeches regard yourself as a strict follower of His Holiness the Imam's line, how can you allow yourself in the Majles to defend women without values? Was the Imam in agreement with this situation in society? Did he want the women in our society to be without values? Did he want the women in our society to sit behind the steering wheel without even tying a scarf over their heads? Did he want the women to put on a gown or a cloak, remaining open from the waist down, with their entire body left out? What are women like this seeking in our society?

How is it that these people had no material needs before? Did they find this need one or two years ago? You must realize that these people are taking their orders from elsewhere. Don't you think that profiteers are misusing these comments and making the situation worse? Those you have called antiwoman are the same dear ones who defended the Islamic homeland and their honor for eight years in the sacred fight at the fronts of Truth against False, people who gave up their lives and property, and those who went into battle to defend the aspirations of the Islamic revolution and to uproot corruption and infidelity.

You saw the march by the nation's committed women and you saw that all of them are unhappy about the corruption in society. Aren't women who paint themselves in a thousand colors behaving against Islam, and aren't they a shameful stain on Islamic society?

In any case, I consider myself indebted to the Islamic revolution, the dear Imam and the fruitful leader of the Islamic revolution. I cannot ignore you, who are a deputy of the martyr nurturing people of Birjand who considers it necessary to defend against the manifestations of corruption, and I hope that exalted and almighty God will guide you to the right path, which is the very path of the late Imam.

* 26 Feb

92AS0670A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Feb 92 p 5

[Report on Yestrday's Open Session of the Majles]

[Text]

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday. In this session, following the pre-agenda speeches, some articles of the amending bill of the direct tax law were ratified.

Esma'il Sahmi, the deputy of Torbat Heydariyyeh

Esma'il Sahmi-Hesari, the deputy of Torbat Heydariyyeh, as the first pre-agenda speaker of yesterday's open session of the Majles, quoted statements from Imam Khomeyni in regards to combating Israel and statements of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, in regards to the Fourth Majles elections and said: If the elections are not held soundly, the consequences will fall back on the revolution and Islam, not the individual or individuals. Factional misuses may temporarily end up in the interest of some shortsighted people, like a mirage. But the matter is absolutely harmful to the regime and the officials. It is not proper to pit the people against oneself and the regime.

It is not proper for a person who wants to be trusted by the people in the Majles, in violation of the law, to

engage in campaigning before the law allows it, to break the law, to misuse the resources that are for public use, and because of relations that some officials create for him, to do and say whatever he wants, whenever he wants.

The deputy of Torbat Heydariyyeh added: Individuals who acted in this manner (in the past elections) received contrary results, but again they have not learned a lesson and repeat the past mistakes.

In the third Majles elections, some of the officials in my constituency engaged in actions that I do not want to mention in this sacred place, for it is really disgraceful. But in practice they saw that the results were contrary [to what they had hoped], and if you have compassion for the revolution and Islam, let the people have the freedom, in accordance with the law, to elect the person that they trust; and do not misuse government and public resources; and do not take undue advantage of your position.

The speaker said: I swear to God it will be in the interests of the regime and yourselves. You saw that in the previous two elections, they sent those they elected to the Majles, and you made fun of it, and not even once did you contact the one elected by the people to take actions together in regards to the public's problems. Rather, you engaged in spreading rumors and false accusations and bothered people under various pretexts, giving various labels.

Mr. Sahmi-Hesari, the deputy of Torbat Heydariyyeh, continued: Slandering is not proper and causes spiritual blindness. You have wasted your time several times following me to the cities and villages near Torbat at night, armed to destroy or frighten me.

Have you ever heard of officials anywhere not even once having contacted their deputy during six years as a deputy? Was the fault of this deputy anything other than having been chosen by the people? Did I not send all of you a message through the office of the Friday imam of Torbat Heydariyyeh to have a meeting for you to present proof that I am not competent, so I can accept and have someone take my place? But none of you responded positively and even said that you were not prepared to confront me for a moment. What was my crime? Was my crime being a clergyman, or being popular, or being revolutionary in its true sense? Why did you not invite me once to give a speech, either during the 10 blessed days of Fajr or the anniversary of the death of the Imam, in the Friday prayers or administrative councils? What is your answer before God and the people? You pay no attention to the representative of the people. You do not think about the people. You have the media at your disposal, why did you not contact the high-level officials by telephone or in person to ask why the representative of this place has no contact with you?

Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, the deputy of Fuman

Acting on the instructions of the leader will result in friendship and brotherhood between the various factions.

The second speaker was Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, the deputy of Fuman, who referred to the million-large participation of the people in the 22 Bahman [11 February] march and said: The signs of the export of the revolution are at the present seen in many countries of the world. For example, in Algeria, where their active presence in the political destiny made the oppressors understand that if the Muslims of the world are free, they will choose no path but Islam, even though the oppressors resorted to various tricks and ruses, including coup d'etat and change of government, to counter the votes and elections of the Muslims of Algeria.

In continuation, referring to the resistance of the Hizballah and Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon, he said: The resistance of the Hizballah also awakened those, who had miserably accepted negotiations with Israel, to the fact that nothing can withstand the capable will of a Muslim that has arisen from his heartfelt belief. The martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi moved the brave young people to such a wave of support that Israel had to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Referring to the directives of the great leader of the revolution, he said: The leader pointed to the "supervisory committee" and all the officials of that headquarters and, acting on the guidance of his honor, is a source of pride for our country and a cause of friendship, love, and brotherhood between the various factions. He called the attention of all the election candidates to the matter that in election campaigns we must have piety and Islamic standards before us and send individuals to the Majles who are clear of various bad reputations and are able to be sincere servants of the nation and the country in the Majles.

As the month of Ramazan is near, Shafi'i said: In this month, let us try to pay more attention to cleansing our passions and lean more towards spirituality.

In continuation, he asked the law enforcement to stand up against the individuals who want to break the sanctity of this blessed month.

Hasan Reza'i, the deputy of Shush and Andimeshk

The last pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's Majles session was Hasan Reza'i, the deputy of Shush, who spoke briefly and, referring to the martyrdom of the secretary general of the Hizballah and praising the president for traveling to Khuzestan, expressed hope that the developmental projects in the province of Khuzestan, including Fath ol-Mobin, will reach their goal as soon as possible.

The Agenda

In this session, examination of the legislative proposal on the procedures to spend the developmental funds for the oppressed regions of the country continued. After the statements of the opposing and supporting speakers, the general points were put to a vote and were not ratified.

Also, the request for an urgency two of the proposal to amend Article 52 of the 1371 [21 March 1992-10 March 1993] budget law, which had been formed in the past session, was once again put to a vote. The urgency two and urgency one were not ratified. (This proposal reduces to $1,000 the fees for a one-year temporary exemption for those eligible for the draft who are abroad.)

The next item on the agenda was to examine the bill on amending the direct tax law of which several articles were ratified as follows:

One hundred percent of the income of rural, tribal, and agricultural persons, fishermen, workers, employees, college students, high school students, and their unions are exempt from taxes.

The text of Article 134 is omitted, and the following text replaces it:

The income of nonprofit schools, including elementary, junior high, technical and trade schools, as well as universities, nonprofit centers of higher education and centers for the mentally and physically handicapped, which are established and operated in accordance with the regulations and permits by related legal authorities, as well as the income of institutions and clubs that are exclusively engaged in athletic activities with permits from the physical education agency, shall be exempt from income taxes.

Paragraph A of Article 138 is amended as follows:

A. That portion of the declared profit from industrial activities reserved by companies for reconstruction, development or completion of their existing industrial units or creating new industrial units, provided they have previously obtained the permit for the development or completion or creation of the new unit from the related ministry, shall be exempt from taxes.

Article 139 is amended as follows:

Income from various medical, health and treatment fields in various oppressed areas, based on the list of the Plan and Budget Organization, and in villages lacking sufficient medical facilities, in accordance with the list of the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, shall be exempt from taxes.

In this session, a group of deputys offered a proposal and asked for the amendment of the attached article to the election law, and after the statements of the opponents and supporters, the urgency two of the proposal was put to a vote, but was not ratified. The text of the proposal is as follows:

The use of any sort of sign, silk screen, writing on walls, or campaign caravan and the use of traveling loudspeakers by Majles, presidential, and Islamic Council candidates and their supporters is prohibited.

Note. National personalities and officials can support the candidates if they avoid using their title and position. In the conclusion of yesterday's session, Mr. Mahlujchi, the minister of mines and metals, responded to the question posed by Mr. Fada'i, the deputy of Arak, regarding the environmental pollution of the Arak aluminum factory. Since it was not satisfactory to the deputy of Arak, it was referred to the related committee.

Related Material

* Role of Council of Guardians in Majles Elections

* Views Expressed by Khamene'i

92AS0760A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Feb 92, p 5

[Text] News Department—His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, gave an important talk at a meeting with the Central Election Supervisory Council concerning the issues in the elections for the Fourth Majles. The text of His Excellency's speech is printed below.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Welcome. I thank you gentlemen, both because you have come and given me this opportunity to discuss further the issues of the elections for the Fourth Majles, and because you have assumed a heavy burden.

I thank both Mr. Rezvani and all the members of the Council of Guardians and the gentlemen who are giving special cooperation in this matter. The duty on your shoulders is truly a heavy burden, and just as you said, certainly acting properly and carefully in the work and acting in the line of duty (both in terms of what is in the details of the law or outside of it and whatever spells out the components of duty for a person from time to time) is a difficult and demanding task. God willing, God will give you your reward and your toil and effort will be accepted before Almighty God. Of course I will present a view on the questions that were raised by Mr. Rezvani. This session is an important and valuable one. I have written down a general description of the matters that pertain to the question of supervision, which I will present. Of course, I am sure that what I will say is already clear to the respected gentlemen who are members of the Council of Guardians, as well as those gentlemen who cooperate with them at this high level, and that I will add nothing to what they know. At the same time, these comments are for those who may hear

or learn about these matters in the future. It is necessary to make these comments in four areas of concern.

The first area is that the Council of Guardians is the most reliable organization and institution that the Islamic revolution has given to the nation's government. The most important, the most expressive, the most active, the most effective body through which we may be assured of the overall soundness of the government is the Council of Guardians. In our Constitution, the Council of Guardians has a more imporant role to play even than the clergy, the first echelon of the Law of the Constitutional Revolution. The clergy, who were at the first echelon at that time, have had nothing to do with making sure public affairs conform to the Constitution, they have merely applied religious law. Second, the people who are on the Council of Guardians today are more aware of the affairs of the nation, the Islamic revolution, and the problems that are blocking the path of the Islamic revolution than are those who at that time wanted work in the first echelon role of the clergy, and what happened is what happened. The Constitutional Revolution turned into first-class despotism. That is, it was even worse than the despotism under Naser al-Din Shah. No one can say that Reza Khan was less despotic than Nasereddin Shah, indeed, there is no doubt that he was more despotic. During the Tobacco Rebellion, when Nasereddin Shah saw the public uprising, he backed down, but in 1314 [21 March 1935 - 20 March 1936] when Reza Khan saw action being taken by the public and the clergy, he arrested the clergy and put down the public action and then the events at Gowhar Shah Mosque took place. I believe that all of these things happened because of the fact that the clergy were not in the forefront there, and first of all if the clergy had been provided for in the supplement to the Constitution (where they were to be at the forefront) and if they had been able to play their role, we would be much more advanced than we are today. Fortunately the participation of His Holiness the Imam (may God be pleased with him) in the Islamic revolution, with that decisiveness, insight, prudence and wisdom that he had, did not permit the enemies to do the same thing with the Council of Guardians, which they did with the first echelon clergy during the Constitutional Revolution. Today, praise God, the Council of Guardians, both with regard to the laws and with regard to secondary matters (such as this matter with which you are involved today) is at the pinnacle of legal and spiritual authority. The Council of Guardians is accepted by the public, has the confidence and concern of the government organizations and supports the government. Whoever does not accept this position for the Council of Guardians and knowingly or unknowingly resists it is in the same ranks with those who, before Reza Khan and during his time, eliminated the first echelon and brought about that evil result.

In its own words and deeds, the Council of Guardians is trusted and trustworthy, and it is the duty of everyone to look upon it with trust. When any judge makes any judgement, someone may object to him in his heart, and since the judge is not a saint, it is even possible that the objection is justified, but the verdict of a judge is the verdict of a trustworthy trustee and in practice it must be received with confidence. Today this is the situation with the Council of Guardians, both in the laws and in its executive and semi-executive actions such as the elections. The Council of Guardians must be trusted, accepted, and relied upon by the public, and praise God it is, and no one should permit himself to attack the lofty rank and spiritual station the law has designated for the Council of Guardians and to undermine it. Thus the first point is that I have reached this position with knowledge, familiarity and insight when I speak of the actions of the Council of Guardians and make decisions concerning it.

The second area of concern is the great importance of the task of supervising the elections, because from that proceeds the health of the elections, the health of the Majles, the health of the laws and the essence of the work done in the country. No matter how efficient an executive organization may be, if the laws at its disposal are not expressive, sound and correct, ultimately there will be deviation. The health of our government depends on preserving its Islamic direction and observing the Constitution in it, and this is achieved through the presence of the Council of Guardians. The health of the government depends on the existence of correct laws in which Islam is observed, and if, God forbid, the Majles is unable to present laws that conform to Islam and if its actions are not good and proper, there is no doubt that this will affect the government, the nation and its executive offices, or in other words the health of the government depends on the health of the Majles. A sound, strong and efficient Majles with believing members who follow regulations will be able to act as the government's legal support in the proper way. Therefore, you who are now charged with observing these regulations in the elections are performing a very important task. You must therefore observe the regulations carefully. A deputy who comes into the Majles must be a good and pious person. Now the questions of the extent of his religious understanding, knowledge and ability are things that are specified in the law and God willing the people will make that determination according to what is best and make a decision. You, however, are here as a safety net, and you are not to permit disorder to arise in this process, God forbid. If a person is corrupt, he must not get into the Majles. Corruption includes financial corruption (meaning someone who is financially corrupt), various kinds of ethical corruption, or ideological and political corruption, and all of these things are corruption. Someone who is a troublemaker, who creates disturbances, who weakens the government, who takes the efficiency away from the organizations and who puts the proverbial stick between the spokes, cannot get into that exalted forum and should not get into the Majles. Those who are really in opposition to the government on any pretext (whether political, personal or as a matter of character) must not get into the Majles. This approach must be strictly observed. The matter of financial and ethical corruption that I mentioned is really a serious

matter. Troublemaking is a serious issue. They see people whom they use to make trouble when they come into the Majles. Saying things that are contrary to reality, telling lies, exciting the people inappropriately and portraying the truth as false and the false as truth are not important to them. Truly, if there are such people, they must be stopped. Concerning the matter of smuggling that you mentioned, this is a general problem and a vast spectre. What does smuggling mean? It is not clear that some small violations will make a person bad, and they ought not be the reason to eliminate others. Of course when someone gets involved with a gang of smugglers and he is making preparations and paving the way to engage in smuggling, that is different. These things are not the same, and limits really must be set and understood. Mere participation in word and by name is not enough. Likewise the financial corruption that I mentioned, for example if someone commits a small violation in a small transaction, this is one thing. Someone else in his transactions and financial dealings may really be a corrupt person who is a habitual abuser. He spends improperly, he gets money improperly, and he consumes improperly, and these things are also financial corruption. Therefore, work is important, and in this work regulations must be rigorously observed. I will say the same thing to you gentlemen in the matter of the Assembly of Experts. In my view, understanding the bitter essence of the law is very important. Of course you are law-abiding people. One must know the language of law and discover its limits. Sometimes words and expressions are not sufficient to explain what is in people's minds and the true contents of the law. Legal expert such as yourselves can understand what the law is really saying.

The third area of concern is ethical principles, for it is necessary to observe them in this work. At the level of people such as yourselves, these matters are not close to each other at all, but when the task is extensive, this matter must be very carefully observed. All the elements and individuals who are involved in this work must be constantly reminded to observe ethical principles. Among these principles is the idea that the personal affairs of individuals really must not be mixed with public affairs. Likewise, ideological and political issues really must not be mixed with the real issues of the revolution and the counterrevolution. It is possible that someone may have political preferences. There is a person who supports the Islamic revolution, and also shows concern and makes effort. Suppose Zaydi is accepted in the revolution and 'Umru is not accepted, while I like 'Umru and don't like Zayd, or I like both Zayd and 'Umru, while someone else doesn't like one of them. This is not a crime. If the members of the supervisory councils get involved in the kinds of issues, which are being called factional today, this is really important. This means group, tribe or family politics, where someone accepts a person because he is a part of his group and rejects another person because he belongs to another group. We must not permit such a thing to get into the domain of our work.

One must take care that loves and hates and the fact that someone likes one person and dislikes another do not come into play at any level of this work. Sometimes someone makes a lot of angry noise, but the motivations are sincere. He is not a troublemaker. There are others who make trouble without the noise. These people must be kept separate. Knowing individuals and knowing the hallmarks of troublemaking, political activity, and factional activity and keeping them separate is a very important task. I also discussed this before, and I confirm it emphatically now. Although I have confidence in you and you have told me before that this area has been resolved, in accepting and rejecting candidates, factional and political directions and what some individual's position is in relation to so-and-so absolutely must not be factors. Individuals must not be scrutinized merely on the basis of accusations made against them and without investigation. One must not judge based on very elementary evidence of criminal activity in a person. Suppose some people have been generally accused based on some minor thing of being "against the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult". It is not clear that if someone says a word or makes a remark in a particular place or time, he should be considered in opposition to the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult. Of course there is no doubt that opposition to the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult is opposition to the most essential and fundamental of the principles and pillars of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, opposition has a certain meaning. If someone writes something and says something against the stands and positions announced by the leadership, which according to the Constitution form the main policies of the government, and if he clearly and consistently (even if not permanently) opposes these positions at sensitive times, of course these things constitute opposition, but if someone says one thing or makes one remark in one place and at one time, he cannot be said to be opposed to the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult. What I am saying is that the cases must really be kept separate. There are people who go out and undermine the essential credibility of the chief jurisconsult's views at various centers and in their comments. This is nothing new. During the late Imam's time these things were also being said. We were in the midst of certain events and we knew these people, and now we certainly have their writings, their tapes, and their comments. The point is that charging someone with being opposed to the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult is not so easy that we can accuse anyone on the basis of some small thing of being opposed to the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult. Opposition to the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult requires evidence and there are rules. In any case, the ethical dimensions must be very carefully observed. Praise God, the integrity and purity of the gentlemen who are in charge (including both the gentlemen on the Council of Guardians and those who cooperate with them) is too obvious for anyone to want to say anything about them or make any recommendations. This is the meaning in general terms, however.

The fourth area of concern is the culmination of the previous points. It is something I have discussed personally with Mr. Rezvani and several other gentlemen, and that is the selection of individuals. The fact that we select individuals throughout the country as supervisors is very important. In the selection of supervisors, no pretext must be given to anyone for complaining or undermining. The individuals must be pure and chaste, and it is even definitely preferable if he has no clear leanings towards a faction or a political school of thought. Some individuals in some cities, although they are good people, clearly operate in a factional manner, and factional activity is not good. Factional activity is not where someone accepts a set of positions in a general way. Factional activity is group leanings, meaning to accept a person merely on the basis of his association with a group. The question of political lines and ideologies has nothing to do with groups and parties, because two parties are distinct from one another on the basis of their two different intellectual positions, but two ideological groups are distinct from one another on the basis of the individuals in the groups, rather than the positions, because there are people in this group who do not accept the group's positions very much, but they belong to the group. There are also people in that group who do not accept all of its positions, but they belong to the group. It is a matter of clans, and it is like family and clan prejudice. When someone is not a member of this group, they don't look to see what his ethical characteristics are, how much he conforms to the criteria and they reject him, and likewise, for a person who is a part of the group, they are not interested in whether or not he conforms to rules and criteria, they accept him. This is a mistake. Some people, although not bad in their personal behavior, do act this way. The more you avoid bringing people like this into your group, the better. Bring in people who do not have this kind of reputation, so that their involvement will instill confidence. In the final analysis, since the Council of Guardians is really the means for achieving public confidence, it should also manifest this confidence. The more individuals from a variety of leanings and political factions take part in the elections, the better it is for the government and the Council of Guardians. We should do things that will make it possible and provide the means for involvement by more people. It should not be such that some political group gets the feeling, even if it is only in one city, that it has no place in these elections. It should be such that everyone everywhere feels that they can really choose freely the man of their choice. That is, the Council of Guardians and its actions at this time must be pure and a mirror of public confidence. Of course, I personally have high confidence in you gentlemen, and I consider you to be just, intelligent and scrupulous, both ethically and in your actions, and I am certain that the true interests of the country are in your minds and that regulations will be fully observed. In any case, however, these are the general things that must be said so that there will be a clear situation in practice and where there are doubts. In a case where there is no evidence or documentation but a person has knowledge (for example, where the knowledge of a judge is a factor), one may act on the basis of one's knowledge, but regulations must truly be observed. I am not talking about the word and letter of the law, I mean the regulations that have religious and lawful credibility must be observed. If in the application of regulations someone really finds information, then naturally he will act on the basis of his knowledge, and this is something definitive. God willing, God will protecte the noble lives of you gentlemen.

Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of God.

* Council Members Speak

92AS0760B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Feb 92, pp 1, 5

[Text] Legislative and Parlimentary Affairs Division—The first of the month of Esfand [21 February] was the 12th anniversary of the installation of the theologians of the first term of the Council of Guardians by His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him). For this purpose the guests on the program "With the People—in Step with the Officials" on the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran were His Holiness Ayatollah Janati and Emami-Kashani, two theologians, and Dr. Mehrpur and Mr. 'Alizadeh, legal specialists of the Council of Guardians, who answered various questions from the people on the position, current philosophy and record of the Council of Guardians, the method of supervising the elections, interpretation of Article 99 of the Constitution, and other matters. Selected portions of the program are printed below.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani: In the Constitution, from Article 91 to Article 99 there are nine articles about the Council of Guardians. The existing philosophy of the Council of Guardians, the position of the Council of Guardians, and the effect of the Council of Guardians is that in certain places it checks the Majles and the lawmaking bodies, but I don't know of any other place in the world where all the legislation of the lawmaking bodies is checked in the way it is done in the Islamic Republic of Iran. They don't consider it necessary and there is no requirement that they amend that legislation.

In the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran every piece of legislation or law that passes through the Majles certainly must come to the Council of Guardians, and when the Council of Guardians issues an opinion, the Majles, under the Constitution, must take note of that opinion. The philosophy of the Council of Guardians starts right here. It is obvious that the goal of the Islamic revolution is Islam. The idea was that the manangement of society's affairs, its problems, its livelihood, its foreign and domestic affairs, all must be determined by law, and the law must also be based on Islam, and therefore the Council of Guardians determines that the laws are both based on Islam and on the Constitution. This council is composed of six just theologians who are are aware of the exigencies of the day, meaning that using their independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, they look at the time and place and take into account the

conditions of the day, and they make a judgment. The six just theologians are chosen by the leader himself and the six legal specialists are chosen by the Majles based on the recommendation of the chief of the judicial power. Therefore, there is no organization like the Council of Guardians in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which on the one hand is supported by the leader who appoints half of its members, and whose remaining members are recommended by the chief of the judiciary and approved by the Majles.

The Council of Guardians studies the laws carefully from the point of view of Islam and the Constitution, and just as has been shown, sometimes we deliberate for several days on one law. We bring various books on theology and discuss it and express our views, and we also ensure that there are no deviations from the Constitution. When laws come to the Council of Guardians, under the Constitution the Council of Guardians has ten days to issue an opinion, and if there is not enough time, the Council of Guardians can ask for ten more days, and if it issues no opinion during that time then the Majles bill automatically becomes law and is enforceable. Likewise, in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution, the theologians on the Council of Guardians may express views on all aspects of the law and on economic, cultural, administrative and other kinds of regulations, and if they issue an opinion that something is against religious law, even though the Constitution generally or specifically permits it, if it is the view of the Council of Guardians that it violates religious law, it will make the specific case binding and the general case specific, and there are such cases, but I don't intend to give examples now.

Another matter is the interpretation of the Constitution, which is done with a three-quarters vote of the Council of Guardians. No other authority has the right to interpret the Constitution. If other authorities want to take action on the Constitution and to see how it should be interpreted, the must ask the Council of Guardians.

Another matter is the supervison of the various elections, which are held in the country.

Listener: In view of the fact that our dear late Imam emphasized that the laws and measures, which are passed in the Majles should be resolved in the Council of Guardians, and that to the extent possible they should not be sent to the Expediency Discernment Council, I wanted to know about the bills and laws the council sends back, and this may happen several times. In view of the fact that all the members of the Majles are elected by the people and there are in any case among them some of this country's clergymen and scholars, why do these laws come back? The criterion for returning laws is certainly the Constitution, but why are there differences of opinion between the Council of Guardians and the Majles?

Dr. Mehrpur: The Council of Guardians was really established in the Constitution to guarantee that the laws passed by the Majles would be religiously lawful and that they would not violate the Constitution. This is a critical and important responsibility that has been placed on the shoulders of the theologians and legal specialists of the Council of Guardians. When laws are approved by the Majles and sent to the Council of Guardians, they are examined in the Council of Guardians from an expert perspective with regard to religious law and the Constitution. It is true that there are also legal specialists and theologians in the Constitution, but there is no principle that says they must all be theologians and legal specialists, and they do look at the laws in a different way. They usually look at laws and regulations taking into account the needs and interests of society. Of course the Constitution has charged the deputies with not passing laws that violate religious law or the Constitution, and it is clear that the approval of laws in any case requires a majority vote of the Majles deputies, but this majority is necessarily not composed entirely of theologians and legal specialists. In the Council of Guardians, however, the task is carefully to study the contents of the law and apply it to theological criteria as well as the articles of the Constitution. It is for this very reason that there is expertise involved in this task. They look at the laws from an expert perspective. Naturally, many aspects of a law may be concealed from the Majles, or sometimes there may be a difference of opinion. Differences of opinion are natural and may arise in legal and theological matters, but an authority's opinion must be decisive. In principle, the Constitution has made the Council of Guardians' view of Majles legislation definitive, although some cases arise, especially where Majles laws and regulations do not conform to the criteria of religious law, where a series of other considerations and interests arise that can be discussed and argued, and they may be changed to secondary Islamic commands. Or perhaps to a great extent, every law that appears not to conform when it comes to the Council of Guardians on the face of it, when assessed in terms of theological and religious law criteria with that direct perpective they use, but at the same time society may sometimes be going down a road where the interest of the government, society and the public require that a regulation be approved, otherwise it is possible that a vacuum will be created in the social system. These are all procedures that are naturally anticipated in religious law, but they were specified at the time these issues arose in any case. In one or two cases laws have passed back and forth between the Majles and the Council of Guardians two or three times. Many members of the council took the view that the Council of Guardians should give its views only with regard to conformity or nonconformity with the criteria of religious law, and on the other hand there was a series of matters of public interest and necessity that required that certain laws be passed. In this regard, in the year 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988] His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) formed a body called the Expediency Discernment Council, and the members of that council are people who are aware both of theology and legal criteria, and of the interests of society and its requirements. The members of the council must be fully informed and knowledgeable both in terms of their

theological mastery and in terms of the interest of society, what it requires and how much necessity and interest are involved, so that we will be able to put aside the primary commands of Islam and establish new regulations. These people would make this determination on an issue. This body was formed by order of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him), and it has also dealt with some cases. Then when the Constitution was revised in 1366, this body was written into the Constitution under the same name in Article 112, and the Expediency Discernment Council was established for the purpose of dealing with laws deemed by the Council of Guardians to be in violation with religious law or the Constitution.

That is, if they determine that it is in the public interest to establish regulations, they find a way, and if this violates the primary commands of Islam, they make it conform to the secondary commands, and and consequently law can be used to solve the problems of society.

Audience member: What plans does the Council of Guardians have for confirming the competence of candidates for the Fourth Majles?

Ayatollah Janati: The law has established qualifications for those to be elected, such as belief and practical commitment to Islam, citizenship of the Islamic Republic of Iran, belief and practical commitment to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expression of loyalty to the Constitution, ability to read and write, physical health including the ability to see, hear and speak and minimum age of 26 years and maximum age of 75 years. These are the qualifications established, and they have deprived some of being elected and serving as deputies, for example, those who played an effective role and were active in strengthening the foundations of the former regime, or big landowners who confiscated unused lands in their own name, or those with official ties to parties, organizations and groups whose illegality was declared by competent authorities, and other cases were in the determination of competence these criteria are automatically considered. That is, those who register are investigated to see if they have the qualifications specified in the law. According to law, the investigation of qualifications is usually done by the executive council, and the Council of Guardians supervises. If they announce that the candidate is competent, the supervisors look to see whether the candidate really is qualified, to see if the criteria that exist here are really found in that person. If they see that the qualifications are there, they confirm him, and if that person is not qualified, for it is possible that the "executive council" has made an error, and the individual may have a record or cases in some places of which they were unaware and did notice, the Council of Guardians, in accordance with its own knowledge, or with knowledge it obtains from the necessary centers, the legal centers, or any other competent center, if information is obtained that the individual does not have these qualifications, the Council of Guardians rejects his competence and he can no longer announce his name for candidacy.

Continuing, Dr. Mehrpur answered a question from a listener about the record of the Council of Guardians. He said: The record of the Council of Guardians is such that in reality it does not appear directly in the form of positive action, or not very often, because the task of the Council of Guardians is one of supervision, mostly supervision of laws and elections. What is seen on the outside from the Council of Guardians is where it has rejected a law or where it halted or voided an election. These are the things that are usually mentioned or announced, yet naturally supervising, monitoring and sometimes voiding elections and preventing the enactment of a law is not agreeable to some people. The very fact that one organization supervises the work of another and sometimes stops it and issues an opinion is naturally not in accordance with a positive measure an organization has taken, after presenting its derivatives, and it does not appear in that form.

If you notice, with regard to Majles legislation, the Council of Guardians has played a role in every good law that comes out of the Majles and is useful, because the Council of Guardians discusses and issues an opinion on every law, and this is true even if it announces its agreement, or even if it objects and the bill goes back to the Majles, then returns and is approved. When elections are held, the guarantees that they are properly carried out are provided by the Council of Guardians, and sometimes the interpretations issued by the Council of Guardians are used to solve problems.

Suppose the country has faced a crisis, and, for example, was without a prime minister or president of the republic as was the case on 8 Shahrivar 1360 [30 September 1981]. The Constitution provides that in the event of the death of the president of the republic, a temporary presidential council will be formed composed of the prime minister, the speaker of the Majles, and the chief of the Supreme Court, to do the work and assume the responsibilities of the president of the republic so that the next elections for the president of the republic can be held. At the time of that frightening disaster we were faced with the lack of a president of the republic or a prime minister, and the nation's legal work was in a state of confusion. I remember that same night the question was raised, now what will become in any case of the government and the management of the nation's affairs? As I remember, they even put the question before His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) for him to give a solution. He said this problem goes back to the Constitution, and there is a need for an interpretation of the Constitution, to see whether two people, meaning the speaker of the Majles and the chief of the Supreme Court can make valid decisions together as the temporary presidential council. First ask the Council of Guardians, if they issue an interpretation and provide a solution, that is what we want, otherwise, at that time I will resolve the deadlock. The matter was referred to the Council of Guardians. At 2200, as I remember the members of the Council of Guardians came together, the matter was raised and they issued an opinion. The

opinion is on record on the interpretation of Article 131 of the Constitution by the Council of Guardians. Early the next day the temporary presidential council issued a statement and pursued its work.

With regard to the laws, there really have been some cases where the application of those same brakes by the Council of Guardians has applied in opposition to laws was very important, although some people did not receive it favorably, especially in some later cases where the good ideas and views of the Council of Guardians and the effects they had became completely clear.

In general however, I will say that throughout the some 12 years of the council's activity, about 1,000 pieces of legislation came from the Majles to the Council of Guardians, all of which the Council of Guardians studied, and some of which it declared to be in violation, and perhaps we can say that 25 to 30 percent of the laws that came out of the Majles were declared by the Council of Guardians to be in violation of the Constitution or religious law and returned to the Majles, most of which were amended and sent back, and approved by the Council of Guardians. Something like 10 or 12 percent goes to the Expediency Discernment Council, or sometimes in the past they were left suspended or rejected.

We have almost 100 interpretations in this period on various articles of the Constitution. They have considered about 56 cases returned from the Administrative Justice Court of the Theologians of the Council of Guardians, and sometimes they issued an opinion that a set of guidelines or a piece of legislation violates religious law, or does not violate religious law. So far the Council of Guardians has supervised four elections for the president of the republic, the Council of Guardians has supervised two elections pertaining to the Assembly of Experts, and two elections for the Majles have been held, over which the Council of Guardians supervised.

The first term of the Majles was before the formation of the Council of Guardians. The Council of Guardians supervised the referendum and public vote and survey with regard to the Constitution, meaning the revision of the Constitution in 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990], and it is served in other instances assuming various responsibilities set in the Constitution and in ordinary laws where the responsibility has sometimes been given to the Council of Guardians.

Ayatollah Janati: Just as was mentioned previously, the law has stipulated qualifications that candidates must have, such as practical commitment to Islam, the government and other things, and certain characteristics have also been stipulated that candidates must not have, such as affiliation with minigroups and other things. In any case, if there are individuals who are not loyal to the Constitution or who do not have practical commitment to Islam and the government, or on the other hand were affiliated with minigroups, or if they commit sabotage in the government, certainly the Council of Guardians will reject the competence of such individuals.

Listener: Can the Council of Guardians reject the competence of candidates because they do not have practical commitment to the law, the chief jurisconsult, and in general because of their lack of practical commitment to Islam?

Listener: Can the Council of Guardians issue an opinion on deputies who are elected by majority vote of the people, in other words, can a deputy be elected by the people and get their vote, and then be rejected later by the Council of Guardians?

Ayatollah Janati: No, such a thing does not happen. If someone is elected, the Council of Guardians will not object to his competence afterwards. The only case where the Council of Guardians issues an opinion after the elections are held is in consideration of the soundness of the elections, not in consideration of the competence of the individual who has been elected.

Ayatollah Janati: Supervision has the quality of interpellation when they allow a supervisor to investigate an executive officer or official to see how he is doing his job, and if he sees sometimes that there are violations, he can either report to an official higher than that official and ask him to resolve the problem, or he can communicate in some way with that executive officer and remind him, leaving the discretion in the hands of that executive officer. Another kind of supervision, however, is laudatory supervision, where if the supervisor sees a mistake being made, he can stop his mistaken activities and not permit the work to be done in a mistaken way, and officially prevent the mistake.

From the beginning, there has been no doubt that the supervision of the Council of Guardians is laudatory, and in practice it has been this way.

This has been our reading of the Constitution, and we have operated on this conclusion. The Majles itself has also agreed, and the election laws, which are now being implemented and have been implemented in the past, also have shown this, and everyone has accepted it. This was not something that could be doubted and debated. These recent controversies required interpretations, which were made, because there was a difference in interpretation of the Constitution between the Council of Guardians and the Ministry of the Interior during the last elections over the question of rejecting and confirming the competence of candidates. Both types of review exist. Some people cited ordinary law giving the Ministry of the Interior the right to determine the competence of candidates, some people said you don't have the right to reject anyone's competence. We ourselves cited the Majles Law and the Constitution and we said no, this is our right, and if competence is inappropriately confirmed, we can reject it.

As the result of this disagreement, to resolve this issue about election supervision once and for all, it was decided that the Council of Guardians should issue an interpretation of Article 99 of the Constitution, which pertains to election supervision, and say what is meant

by this supervision. Should the Council of Guardians sit back and watch from a distance and if it sees a mistake, simply say that this is a mistake, or can it prevent a mistake? The Council of Guardians issued an opinion to the effect that it is not so that the supervisor should only say this is a mistake, be careful not to repeat it, or for example announce to another high-level official that a mistake was made here. No. Wherever it sees that a mistake has been made, whether in the confirmation of competence or in the conduct of the elections and election day, the Council of Guardians is obligated to prevent these mistakes, which are sometimes done in violation of the law, and make sure that invalid votes do not come out of the ballot boxes. Concerning the area of activity of the Council of Guardians before and after the elections, it must be said: If the elections are held and the votes announced, the only thing the Council of Guardians can do is if it sees that the elections were not held correctly and that the violations that occurred had an effect on the outcome of the elections, someone who did not have a vote suddenly found a vote, or someone got the vote and in the count or somewhere else there was a mistake and he did not get the vote, here the Council of Guardians can void the elections in that precinct. This is the only thing it can do after the elections, but before the elections or during the elections, it is the same question of considering competence, and during the voting the supervisors from the Council of Guardians are there to be sure that there are no violations, and sometimes, if there are some people wanting to do something by abusing their own relationships, to be sure that this does not occur and that the true vote of the people comes out of the ballot boxes.

* Candidates' Competence Evaluated

92AS0760C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Feb 92, p 2

[Text] News Department—His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may Almighty God be pleased with him, in raising the question of the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult, proved to the people of the streets and the bazaars that Islam is not a religion of emamates or an abject religion that accepts neither the Koran nor relations.

Mr. Habibollah 'Asgarowladi, the chief jurisconsult's representative on the Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) Aid Committee, made the above statement at the ceremony celebrating the joyous birth anniversary of the savior of the world of humanity and seal of the trustees, His Holiness Hojjat ibn al-Hosn al-'Asgari, on the eve of the birth anniversary of that holy man at the Maktab al-Sadeq Passion Play Theater. While explaining the above, he said that the goal of the struggles by His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) to establish the Islamic government was to make preparations for the appearance of His Holiness Mehdi (may God hasten his joyful advent).

He said: His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) said: Our struggle is to make preparations for the appearance of His Holiness Mehdi (may God hasten his joyful advent). This struggle has three phases: Making Iran Islamic, making the Muslim world Islamic, and making Islam international.

He noted: Islam is a world religion and it has come to make humanity happy. Today not only are one billion Muslims in the world struggling to establish Islamic rule in their countries, Islam is also growing and manifesting in many Western nations.

He added: His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him), as the standard bearer of the truth, fought with all his being to bring the truth to the fore, and the great clergy and the various classes of the people, through God's grace, helped him, and ultimately the victory went to Islam. Every day that goes by in the life of the blessed Islamic revolution is a greater victory for Islam and the Muslims.

He added: The Muslims of the republics separated from the former Soviet Union are now proud to be Muslims, they aim to establish Islamic government in their countries, and they fear neither Russian nor America for reaching this goal.

Elsewhere in his talk, he emphasized the extensive presence of the people in the elections for the Fourth Majles. He said: The elections for the Fourth Majles are especially sensitive, because they are important for the enemies of Islam, the friends of Islam and the Islamic revolution. If the people turn out in large numbers for these elections, the enemies of Islam will be beaten and the hearts of Muslims will be glad.

The chief jurisconsult's representative on the Imam Khomeyni Aid Committee noted: The Council of Guardians and the Ministry of the Interior will not permit unfit people to become candidates. Therefore, in the elections every person who votes casts a vote for Islam. The point is, go to the polls and vote for the candidates you know and think best qualified.

He said: We can campaign in the elections for those we consider the best qualified, but we have absolutely no right under religious or ordinary law to say bad things about someone we consider not to be the best qualified.

Habibollah 'Asgarowladi said that the existence of two political factions in the country guarantees the health of the government. He said: The people should not worry about the presence of two factions in society, because both factions are trying to organize affairs to follow the line of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him). The debates that sometimes occur between the two factions in the newspapers or in the Majles are clashes of ideas, and lead to the growth of the revolution.

He emphasized: Under current world conditions we are the model for one billion Muslims, and we must maintain our unity and political coordination.

* Editorial on Competency of Majles Candidates

92AS0761A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Feb 92 p 3

[Editorial by Ahmad Tavakkoli]

[Text] In yesterday's editorial the topic of the Constitution and the Election Law with regard to the necessity of ensuring competence for registered Majles candidates was discussed. After the leader, the Majles is the command center of the nation's affairs, and naturally it must have the full support of the nation. This support will be lasting when the deputies are above suspicion of corruption. If there is no direct public control through the executive council and the careful supervision of the Council of Guardians, God forbid, the influence of unsound elements, which may even already have held deputies chairs for a time, will gradually erode public confidence. Already a few rare individuals of this very nature have caused some of the people to be pessimistic. Not only is the existence or penetration of corrupt individuals a blow to the reputation of the Majles and a danger to the Islamic revolution, but also even the activities of unsound individuals acting as candidates to the Majles could damage the prestige of the Majles.

Honesty and justice are among the things that the deputies take an oath to uphold. Don't you think that those who make a habit of doing the things listed below should face charges of being against the people before the executive council? If an error is made in the course of this, shouldn't the Council of Guardians prevent their rampages in the election process? Consider the following examples:

- Presenting opportunists and leeches to the government organizations as oppressed and committed people to obtain government concessions, including goods, commercial authorizations, agreements in principle, and other things, and then profiting from the results of the abuse. In one instance, for example, four corrupt individuals were presented to a government organization for the purpose of transferring a considerable quantity of carded cotton from the province of Mazandaran to Esfahan, and the executive and judiciary powers alertly recommended that this not be done. If that order had been acted upon, profits of about 400 million tomans would have gone to those leeches who were presented as oppressed people. In their protests, the detainees said that they were to have given 20 million tomans from the profits on this religiously lawful(!) free market sale of cotton to the one who advised it so that he could use it in his electoral precinct to help oppressed in the no-interest loan fund.
- Acting as a go-between for economic abusers in the government organizations, alleviating their problems and sharing in the gifts obtained(!), for example, solving the executive problems for industrial projects through existing influence in government organizations, solving municipal problems and obstacles, buying through middlemen, or supporting gangs of financial abusers.
- Exporting expensive items or importing unauthorized items using a political passport, for example, bringing excessive amounts of gold or carpets, importing videos in unmarked parcels, or importing small and valuable industrial products at a time when they are not authorized.
- Improper relations with foreign companies who are parties to contracts with executive organizations and accepting their invitations for foreign travel along with their families or accepting improper gifts.
- Establishing economic institutions on legitimate grounds and then creating monopolies using political power and accumulating huge amounts of wealth.
- Being incalculably generous with the aforementioned improperly obtained revenues, or from other sources, for the purpose of getting votes, or for example to meet the election expenses of fellow members of one's political group.

Guarding the gains of the Islamic revolution and defending the Constitution are other parts of the oath taken by the Majles deputies. If someone expresses ideas or takes positions that are clearly in contradiction with some of the true gains of the Islamic revolution or some of the articles of the Constitution, should he still expect to be considered competent for the elections? Consider the following types of positions and ideas:

There are people who do not believe in the absolute vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, which is the basis of the divine and popular government, is the most important gain of the Islamic revolution and the late Imam and is clearly mentioned in Article 57 and implicitly mentioned in Articles 5 and 110. These people do not consider the legitimacy of the government to be derived from the divine vice-regency of His Holiness the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent), but rather consider only public acceptance to be the basis of the government's legitimacy, and they declare the prerogatives of the chief jurisconsult to be limited to the regency passed from the people. How can such people take the oath of loyalty to the Constitution?

Determining the general policies of the government in accordance with the commands of Islam and the articles of the Constitution is the responsibility of the leader, who designates and announces them in various ways, for example, through the Supreme National Security Council (in accordance with Article 176). If there are people who have repeatedly taken positions against these policies on various issues such as relations with foreign countries, the Persian Gulf war, the resumption of the pilgrimage to Mecca, and have engaged in sabotage, are they supporters of the Constitution and the government commands of Islam?

Article 57 of the Constitution puts the members of the three branches of the government, the legislative, the executive and the judicial, "under the supervision of the chief jurisconsult and the emamate of the nation." If

someone, despite repeated reminders from the leader, repeatedly does things like the ones listed below, isn't he making trouble? Do such people have practical commitment to Islam and the Constitution?

- Accusing the Assembly of Experts of plotting, going almost to the point of boycotting the elections for the Assembly of Experts, and calling those elections nonpopulist.
- Making the most contemptuous remarks about the Council of Guardians, which is composed of six just theologians chosen by the late Imam (may his grave be sanctified) and the chief jurisconsult, as well as six legal specialists selected by the Majles, and calling them factional and the agents of a plot to remove the forces of the Imam's line.
- Accusing the government of making efforts to "undermine the Imam" and facilitating the return of America and the plundering West.
- Accusing the government and the economic program of throwing away the Islamic revolution, supporting capitalism and destroying the oppressed, and especially accusing the president of the republic in his economic and political measures of intending to compromise with America and revising the Imam's line.

Any fair person would consider these kinds of things corrupt and obviously will not be happy to see the pure area of public affairs, which was created for true public participation with the pure blood of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution, become an arena for rampages by corrupt people. Of course, the real determination of the above hallmarks is the responsibility of the executive and supervisory councils and the Council of Guardians. Let us remember that the leader discussed this when addressing the Central Supervisory Council. He said: "If a person is corrupt, he must not get into the Majles. Corruption includes financial corruption, various kinds of ethical corruption, and ideological and political corruption. All these things are corruption. Someone who is a troublemaker, someone who makes trouble, weakens the government".